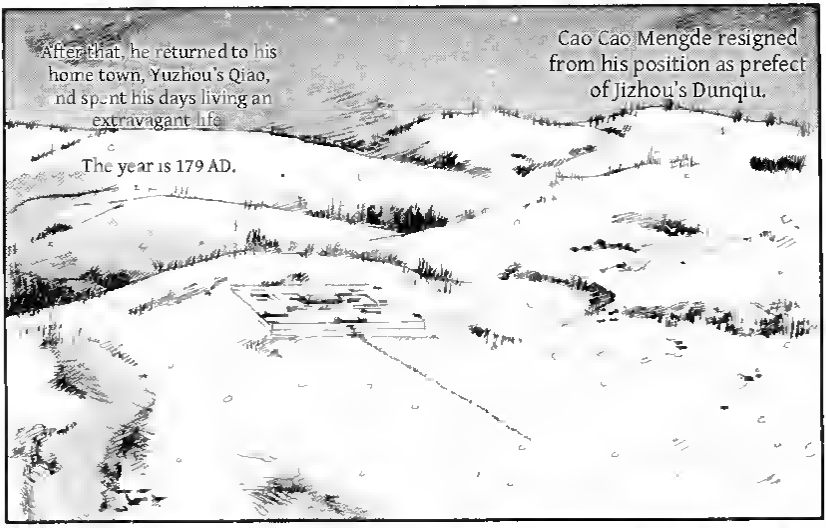
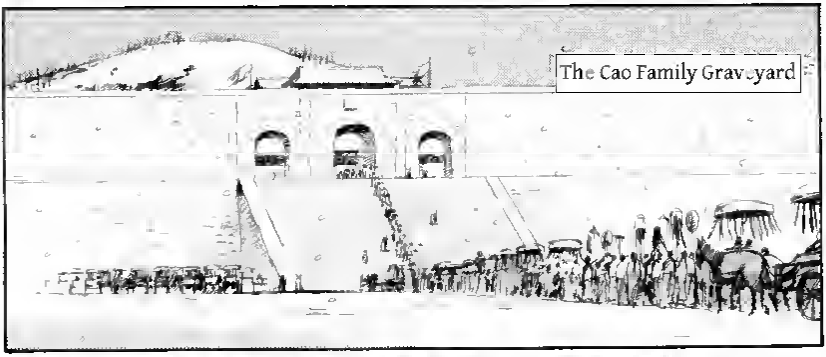
☯The Sensual☯ Songstress

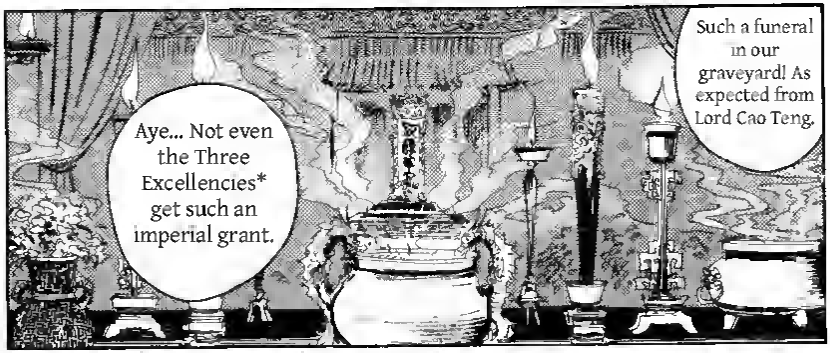
☯その三十五☯

官能の歌姫

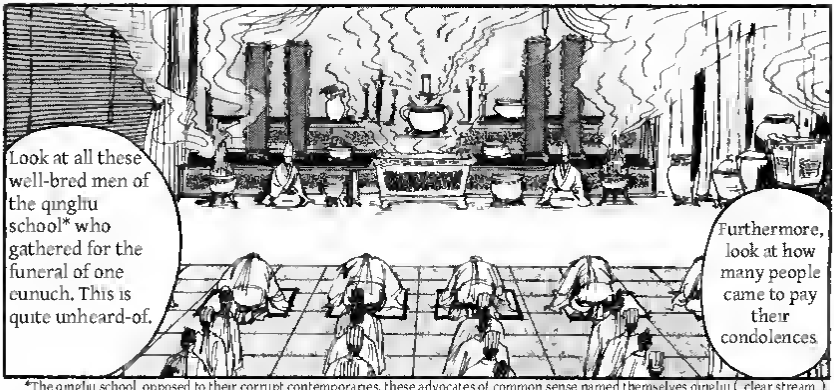
Translator: Lion of Genesis
Editor: Jookia


Cao Cao Mengde resigned from his position as prefect of Jizhou's Dunqiu.
After that, he returned to his home town, Yuzhou's Qiao, nd spent his days living an extravagant life.
The year is 179 AD.

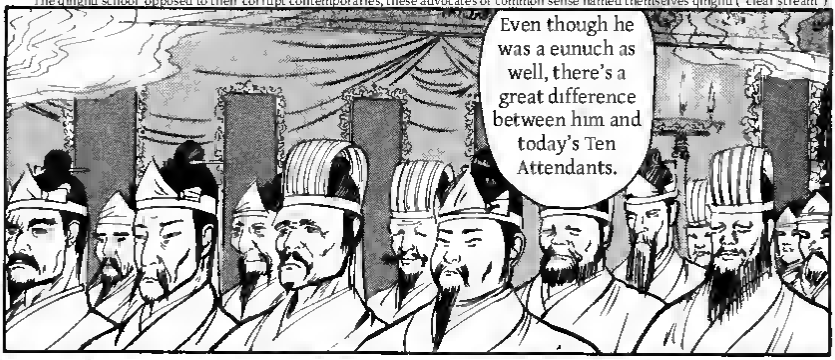


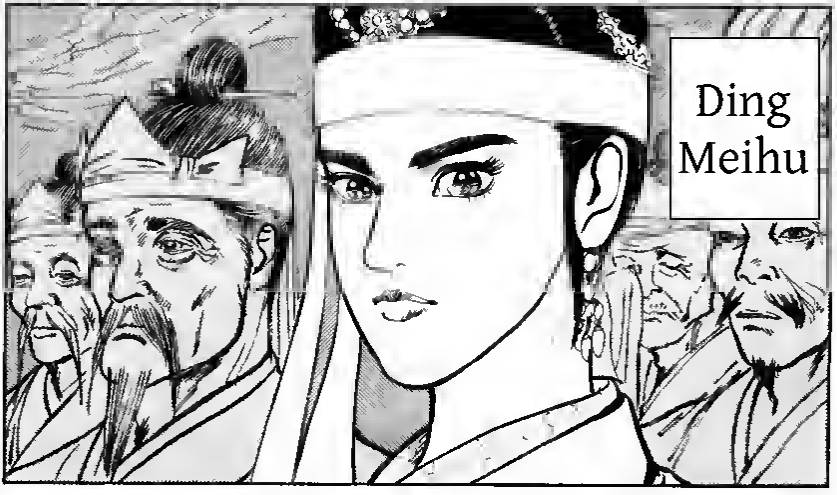

Such a funeral in our graveyard! As expected from Lord Cao Teng.
Aye... Not even the Three Excellencies* get such an imperial grant.

*Three Excellencies: The highest political ranks of the time. See earlier chapters for a more detailed explanation.


Look at all these well-bred men of the qinglu school* who gathered for the funeral of one eunuch. This is quite unheard-of.
Furthermore, look at how many people came to pay their condolences.

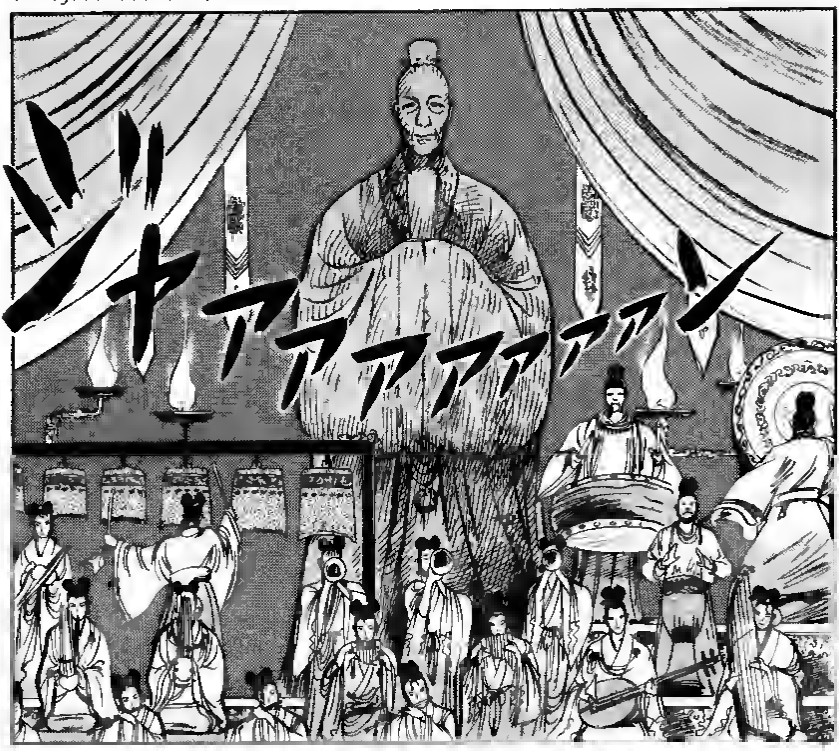
*The qinglu school opposed to their corrupt contemporaries, these advocates of common sense named themselves qinglu (clear stream)

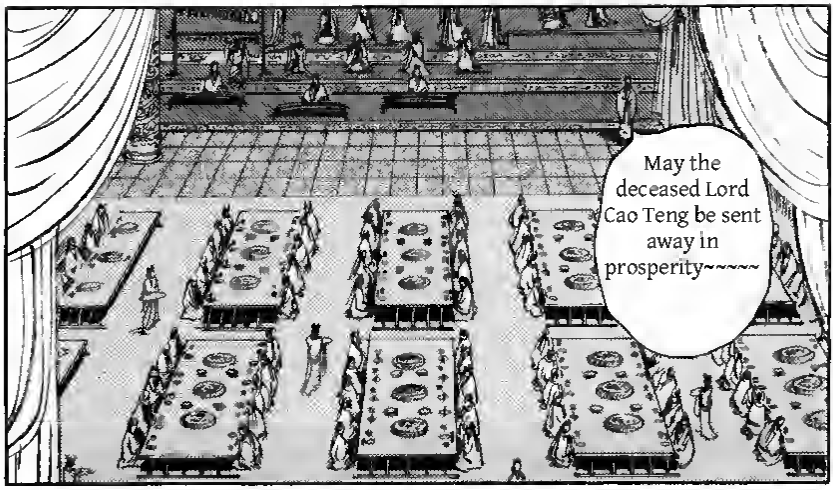




His mother, Bai Lian.
Cao Cao's father Cao Song.

SFX: Jaaaaaaaaaan!

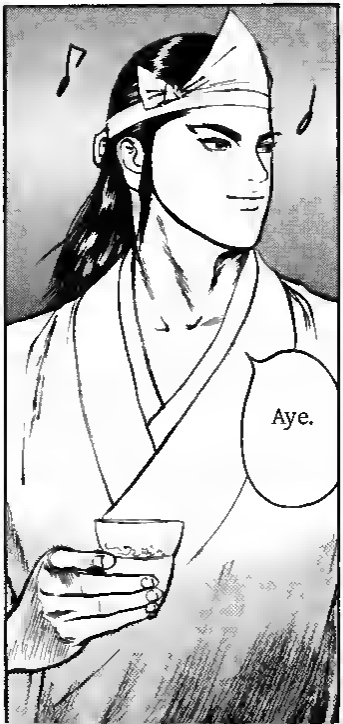


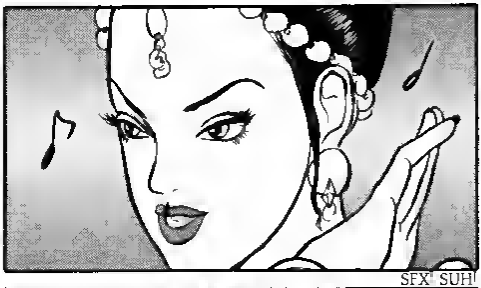


A funeral song from the songstress of the North, Bian Linglong~~~~

Cao Hong
Cao Ren
Xiahou Dun
Xiahou Yuan
And he doesn't seem to want to get employed.
Said he gave up on the prefecture and came back home because he was sick.
You never really know what Mengde's thinking, as usual.
His grandpa really loved him, after all.
Well, what'd you expect?
But even he's really meek today. He's had his eyes closed all this time.
We're talking about *him*. He could be sleeping.
No, no. I dunno.

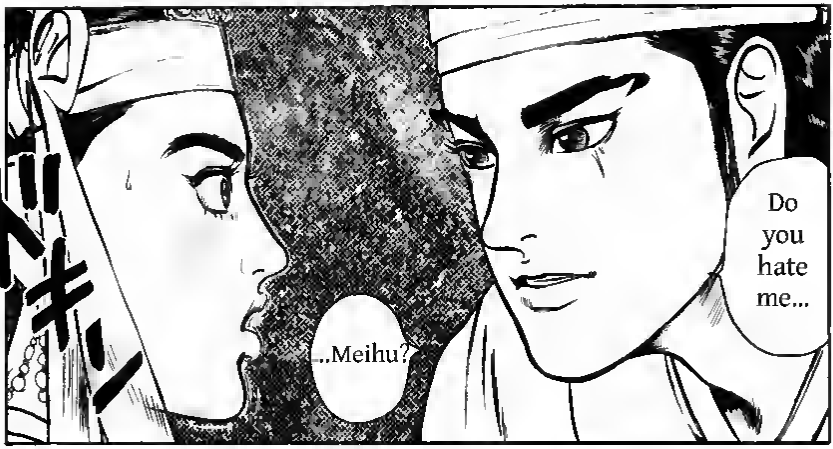
It's a song that doesn't really work with a funeral.



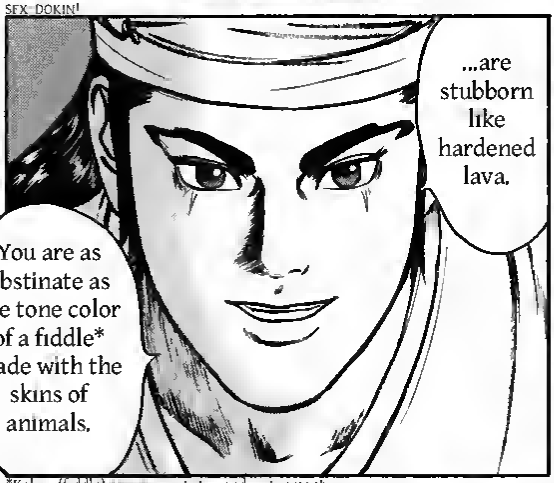


SFX: SUH

My, Luoyang's most unmanageable woman ended up serving drinks
You must have felt lonely in my absence, Meihu
I do not serve drinks to other people than the one who is to be my husband
You are a most conceited and egotistical philanderer! Moreover, you are self-righteous and arrogant. You know nothing about the world!
Even though you are the man your father chose for me, whenever I think that I am such a man's wife, I feel pathetic!
In addition to all that, you say you pledge your heart, but you do not apply for a position, and spend each day hunting and reading with concentration, without doing anything of value!



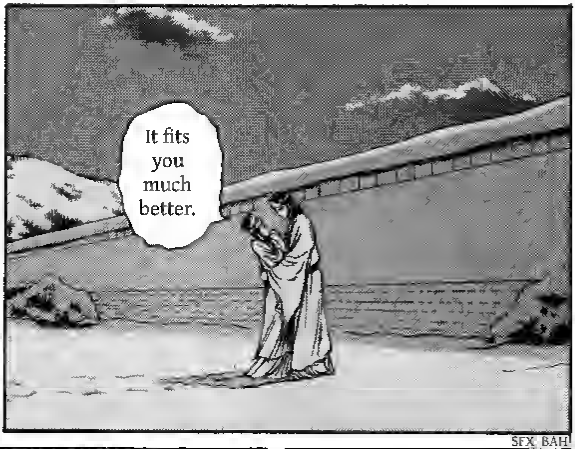
SFX: DOKIN!



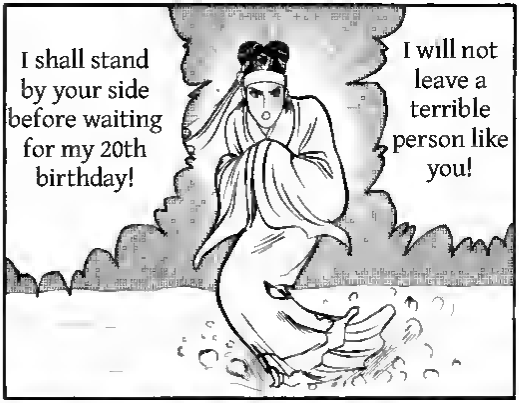
*Kokyu (fiddle) | an ancient stringed instrument

You think everything gravitates around you.
If people treat you nicely, you take advantage. If they treat you badly, you get angry and sulk.

However
you are beautiful


It fits you much better.

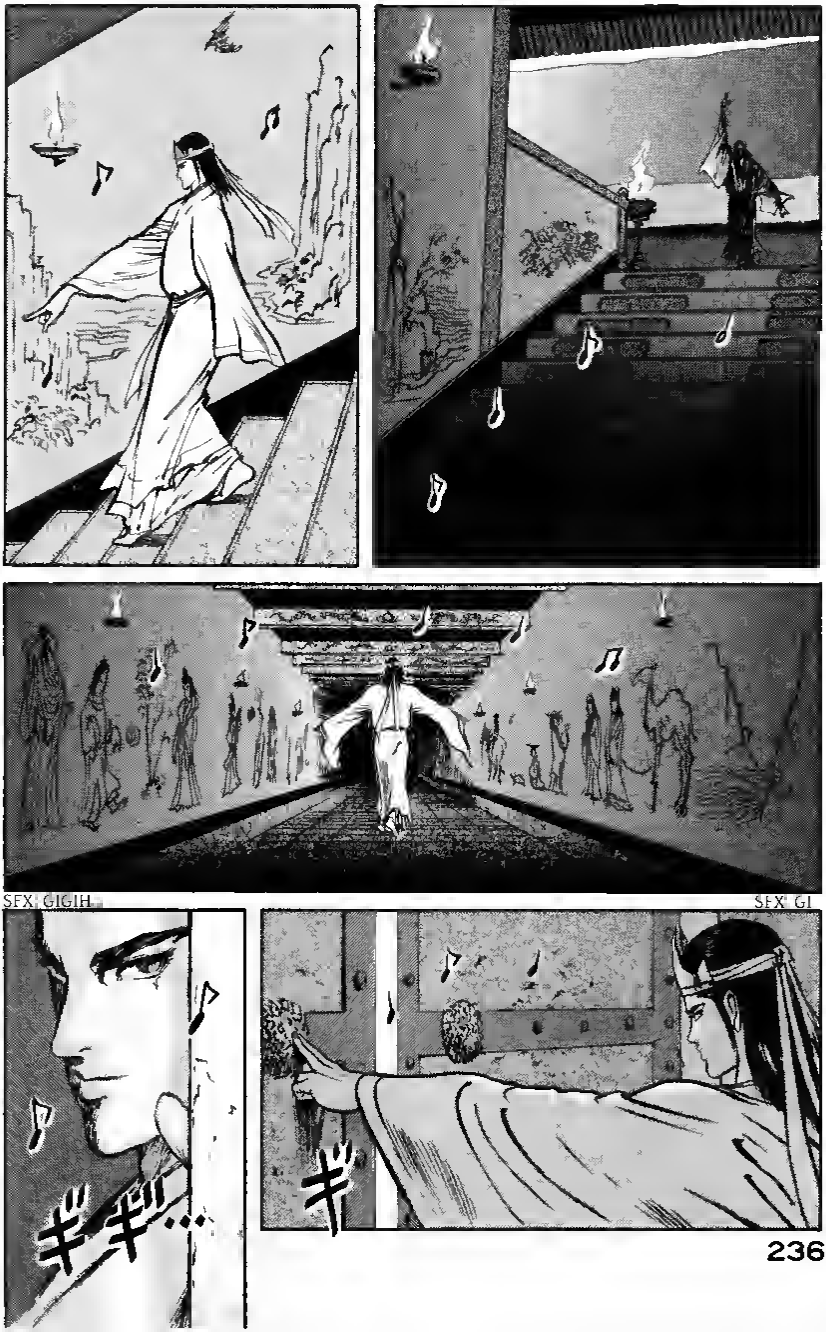
SFX. BAH


I shall stand by your side before waiting for my 20th birthday!
I will not leave a terrible person like you!

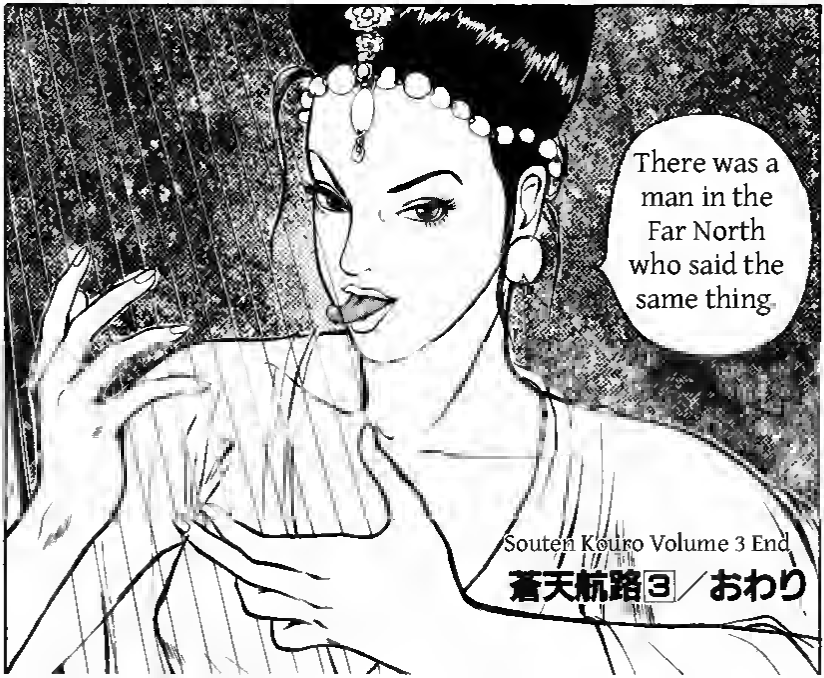
Hmmm

Mengde
While I have gained a fortune unsuited to a eunuch's position...
...I do not feel any guilt.
Mengde...
History might remember me as the root of this evil.
However, those who inherited these ways are the current Ten Attendants, who are ruining the Imperial Court.

Mengde...
Use the fortune I leave you without hesitation
If I leave you my fortune, I will have no more regrets.
I have happily lived these last few years of my life with you!
I would have wanted to work under a man like you.
Gallop through the world under Heaven, Mengde.


SFX: GIGIH
SFX: GI
ギギ…
ギ

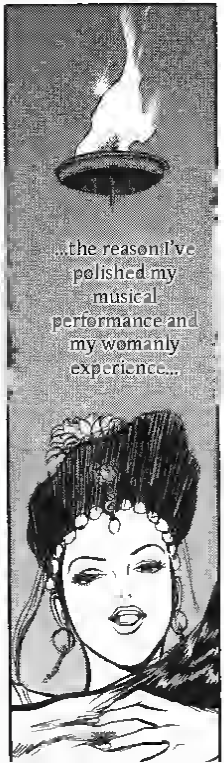
Do you use all of your worldly senses to mourn for the dead?


There was a man in the Far North who said the same thing.
Souten Kouro Volume 3 End
蒼天航路3／おわり

-Translator-
Lion of Genesis
-Editor-
Jookia

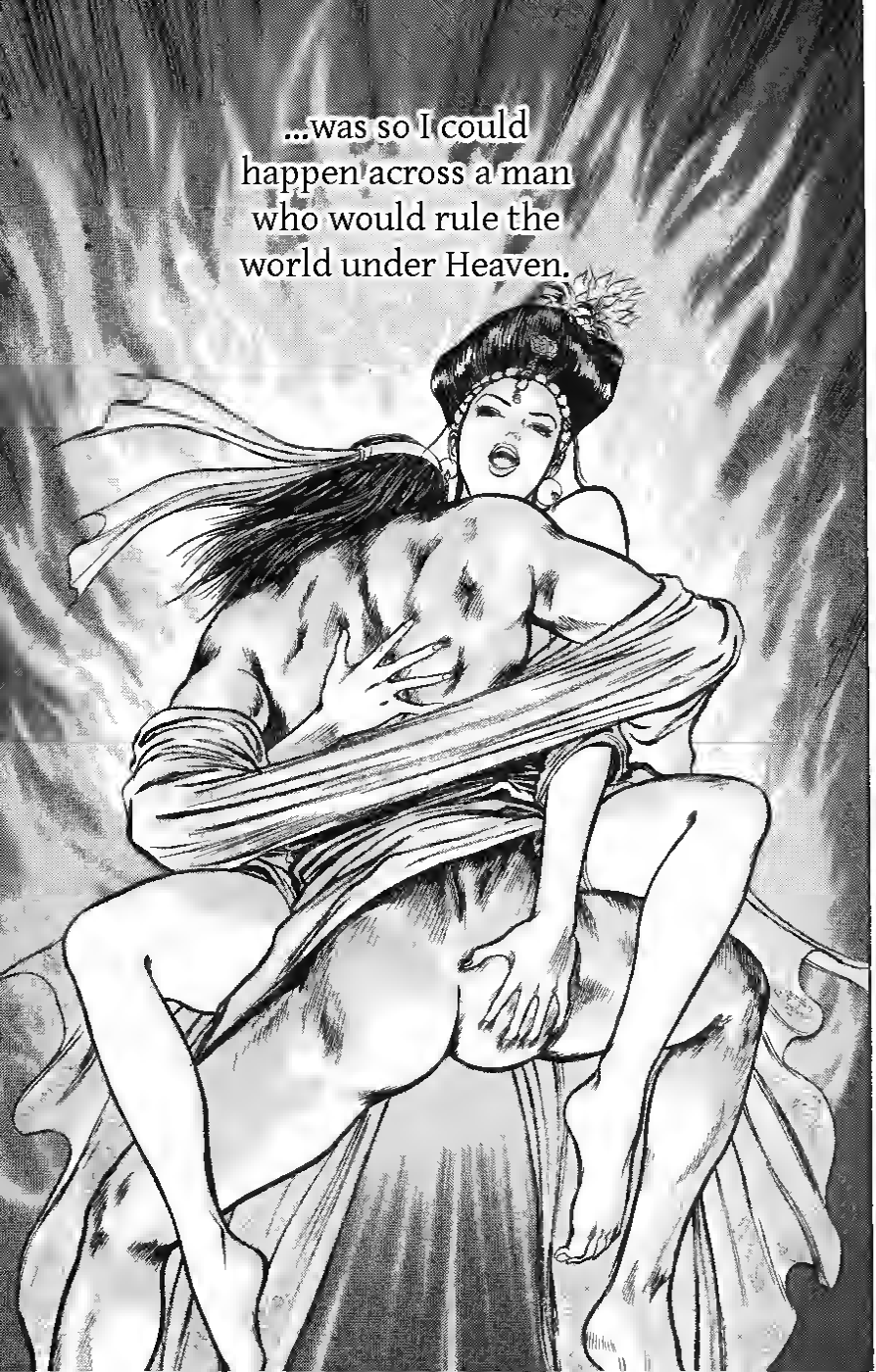
SFX: KOTO
... my grandfather would be most delighted by your song of mourning.
I'm sure that, beyond any Imperial funeral address, ...
コト
These are peerless words of praise.
スッ
SFX: SUH

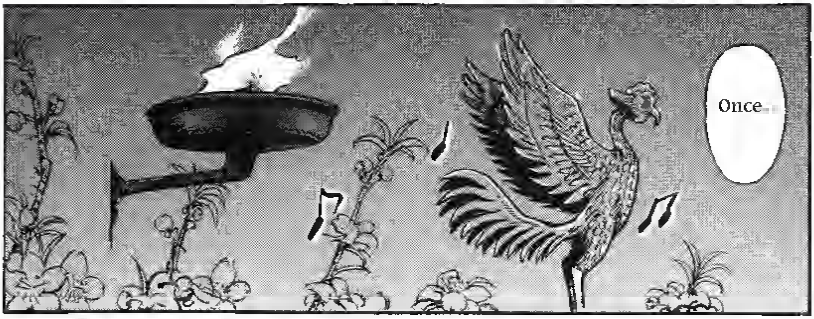
I, too, mourn for my grandfather.
I do not mind.
... I would never leave your side.
Should you embrace me ...
And?
It seems the rumors about you were true.
But I come from a brothel.


...the reason I've polished my musical performance and my womanly experience...

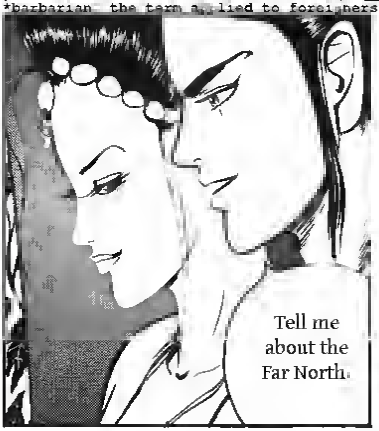
from the Far North to the Far South-

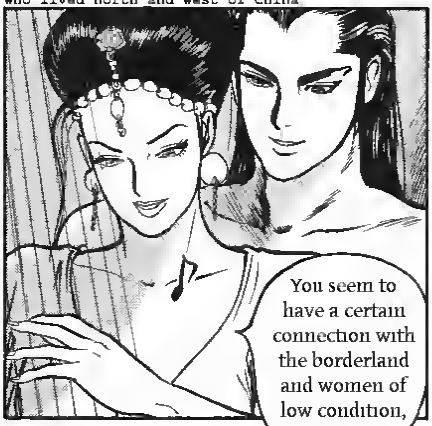
...singing my songs, dancing my dances...
Ever since I was little...


...was so I could
happen across a man
who would rule the
world under Heaven.

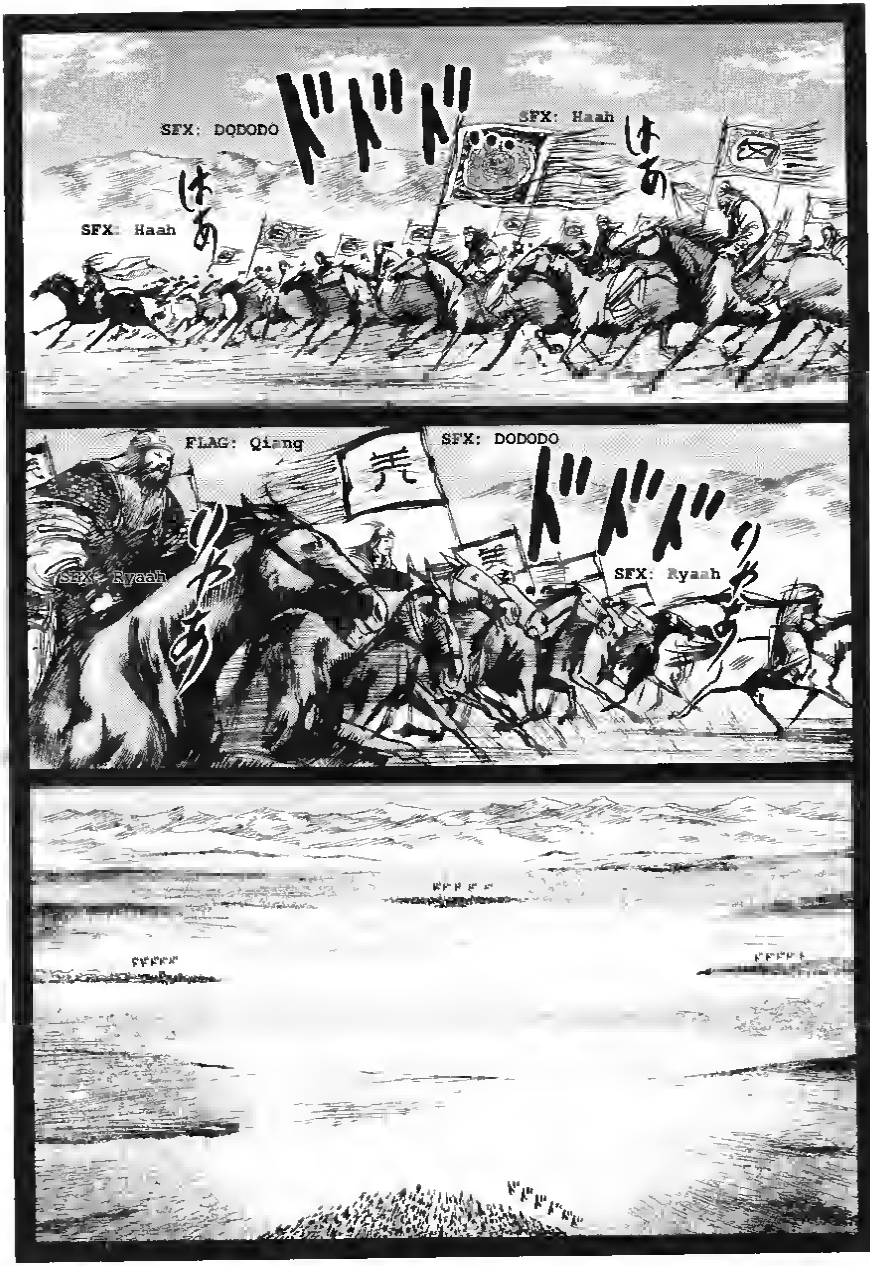


*barbarian: the term applied to foreigners who lived north and west of China





How-
ever
...it is the story of a man who would not lose to you.
Fine, then.
In the land up North
SFX POOOON
...among the men I'd seen, there is one man far more dangerous than the others.


SFX: DODODO
SFX: Haah
SFX: Haah
FLAG: Qiang
SFX: DODODO
SFX: Ryaah
SFX: Ryaah

*Xiliang: a region in the Far North of the Han Empire, neighboring an area populated by foreign tribes.

*Qiang, barbarians both are equestrian tribes in the North and West of China

Furthermore, they called this man "The Northern Monster".
...he befriended the chiefs of the Qiang and the barbarians...
Although, at first, he was the leader of an army of 100,000 meant to suppress the foreigners in Xiliang*...
Cruel and sharp-minded, he is a man who likes to provoke others.

He is a man who is waiting for the chance to crush the Han Empire with the elite foreign horsemen under his command.
Even though he is a man of Han, words such as "virtue" are of no concern to him. He is a man who lives only by his own values.
The name of this man is Dong Zhuo, Governor-General of Xiliang.

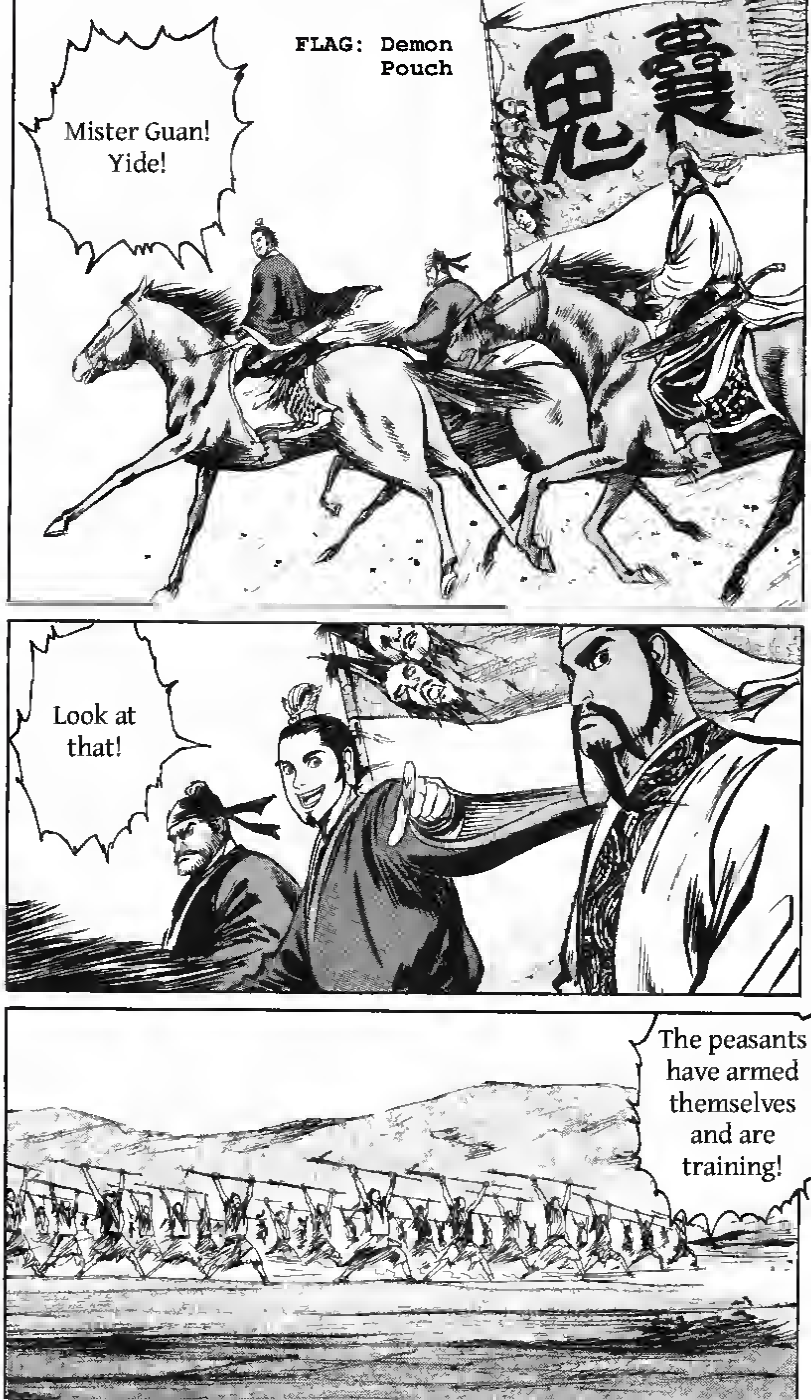
Aaah...
If you had the favor of such a great man, why did you leave him?
Once it has begun, how long do you think it will last?
Hm?
The war is about to begin, isn't it?

I've seen a small part of what is in your heart.
The war will be about 30 years long.
Hm?
You're looking for a man who will survive this 30 years' war and become ruler.
Someone much younger than Dong Zhuo.

I want to give birth to an Emperor.
Yes.

*Gaozu – Liu Bang: the first emperor of the Early Han Dynasty
It's just like in the times of Gaozu – Liu Bang*
...should he use his ability and be granted luck, could reign supreme over the world under Heaven.
In troubled times, any man, however low his position...
However, this is the first I've heard of women who aspire to the world under Heaven.

SFX: POROOON
Bian Linglong.
It seems you've come here to convey a divine oracle.
Yes, I have. Until you embark upon your career, take your time..
...and allow me to accompany you along with that lovely person.

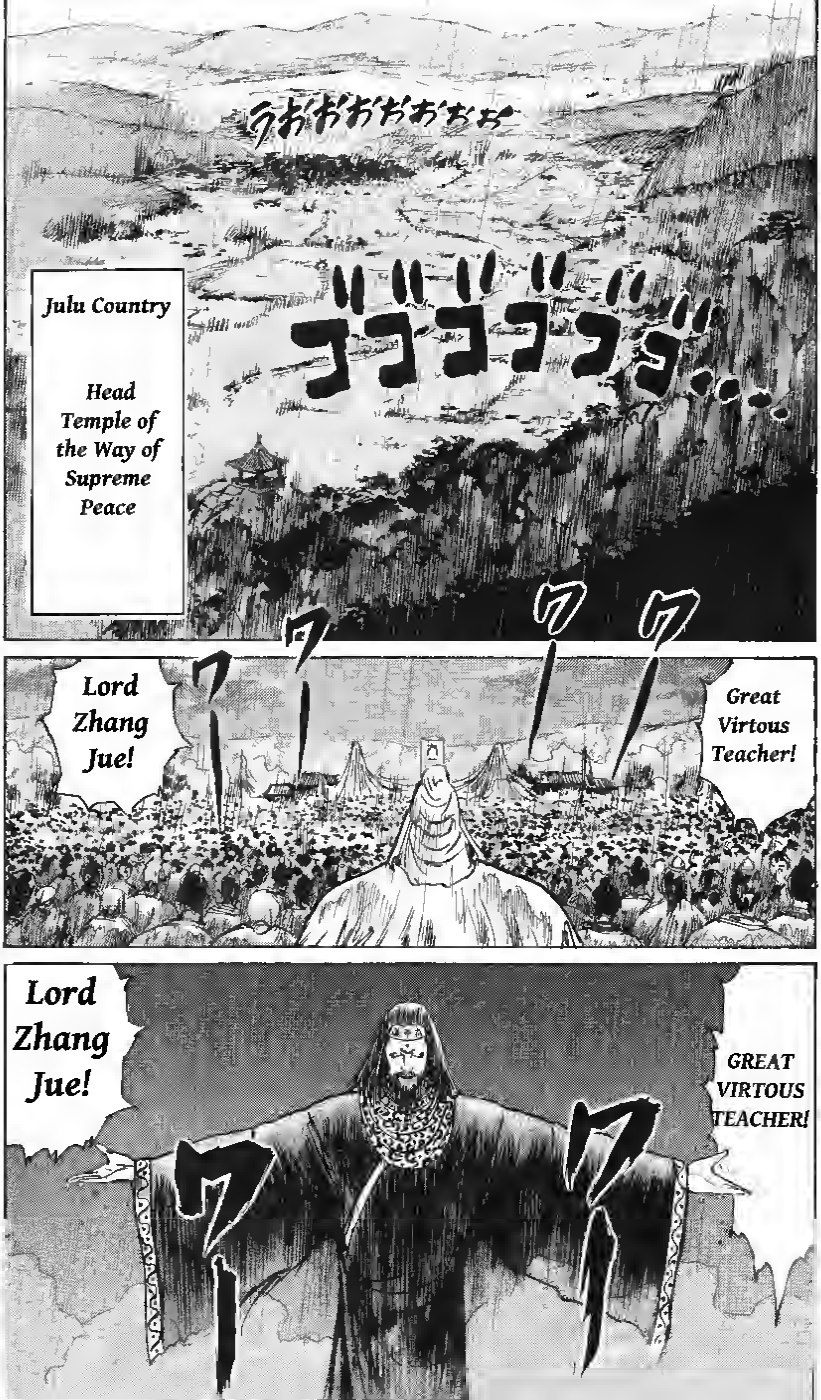

FLAG: Demon Pouch
鬼囊
Mister Guan! Yide!
Look at that!
The peasants have armed themselves and are training!

Supreme peace under Heaven!
Impar-tiality for all!
Long life, good fortune!
Why would religious people arm themselves!?
That's the Way of Supreme Peace.
They're trying to stand up with their own strength, without relying on *xia* like us!

Even so, they didn't just happen to swell up in numbers.

The time has come for people all over the world to change their places!
Why don't you go and ask their boss for directions, Mister Guan?
その三十六
皇帝を生む女 おわり

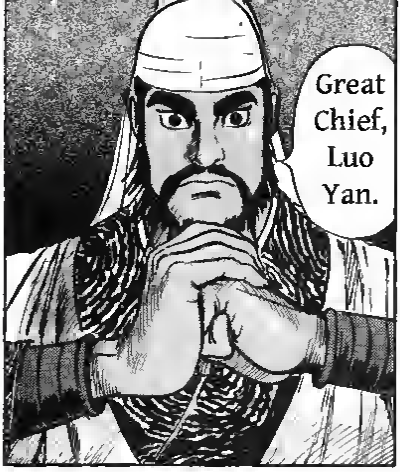
その三十七
ねいげん Chapter 37
佞言断つべし!!
CEASE THIS FLATTERY!!
RYU GENTOKU
SOU MOUTOKU


うおおおおおお
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ…
Julu Country
Head Temple of the Way of Supreme Peace
Lord Zhang Jue!
Great Virtous Teacher!
Lord Zhang Jue!
GREAT VIRTOUS TEACHER!

Raise your heads!
Brethren of mine
Ye down-trodden people!
A pure heart is like a shield of steel...
...and these scriptures are the halberd that shall lead us to the Great Peace!
Pain purifies your bodies!
All true men keep a quiet heart!
Respectfully open up the way to Peace auspicious and secure!

Translator's note: The people are mostly yelling slogans like the ones we've been seeing in the past chapters, as well as the last two from the previous page.

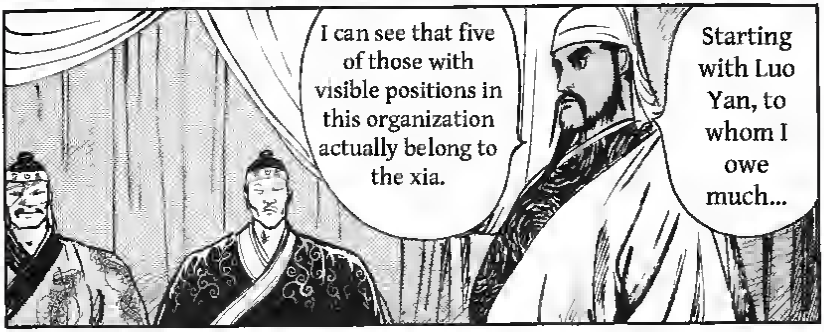
If you want an audience with the Great Virtuous Teacher,
Y-You must follow this line.
I, Guan Yu Yunchang, am a follower of the Demon Pouch, a xia general from the prefecture of Zhou. I have been told to ask for directions.
I have not come in search of prayer.
We must report this to Lord Cao Cao.
I've only heard of him, but to actually see him in person...
Mister Yi, do you know of this fine man?
W-Wait a moment !!
Did you say your name is Guan Yu?

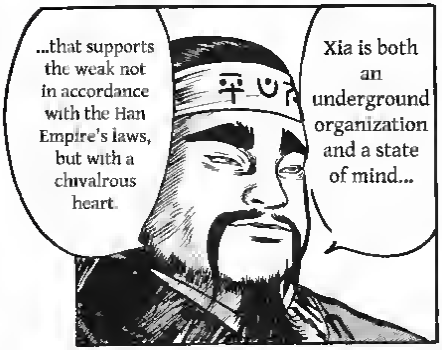


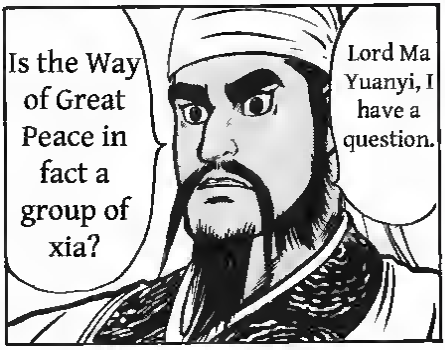
*Generous Teacher: a position similar to that of a bishop. (Author's note)

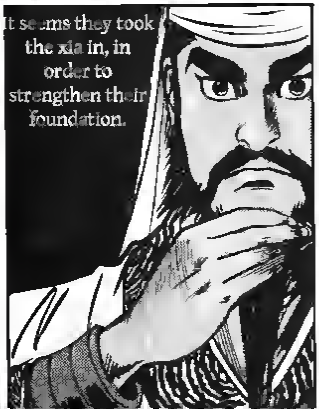
Also, all the people in here are officials of our religious organization.
I am Ma Yuanyi, Generous Teacher* of the Way of Great Peace.

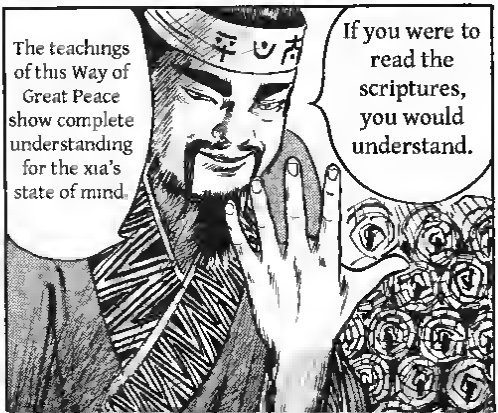
※大方師＝大司教にあたる役職。


I can see that five of those with visible positions in this organization actually belong to the xia.
Starting with Luo Yan, to whom I owe much...


...that supports the weak not in accordance with the Han Empire's laws, but with a chivalrous heart.
Xia is both an underground organization and a state of mind...

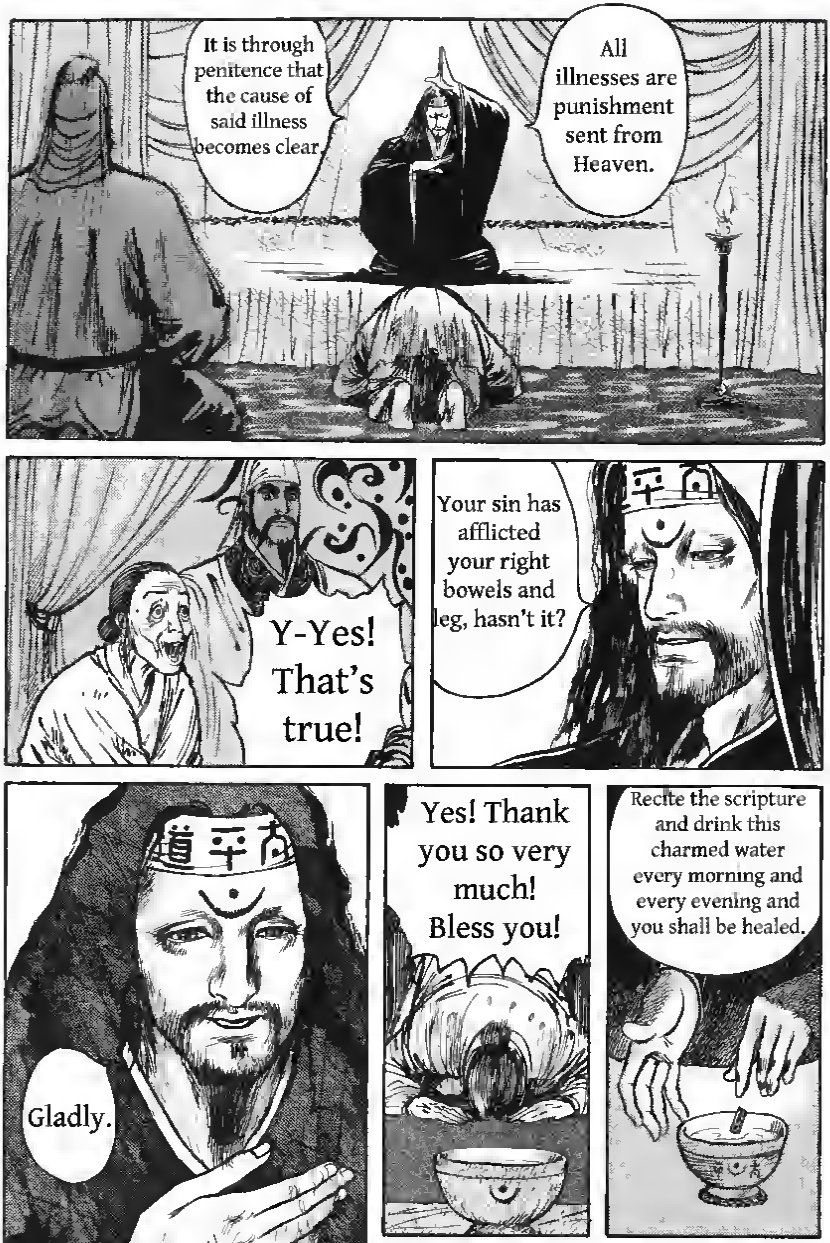

Is the Way of Great Peace in fact a group of xia?
Lord Ma Yuanyi, I have a question.

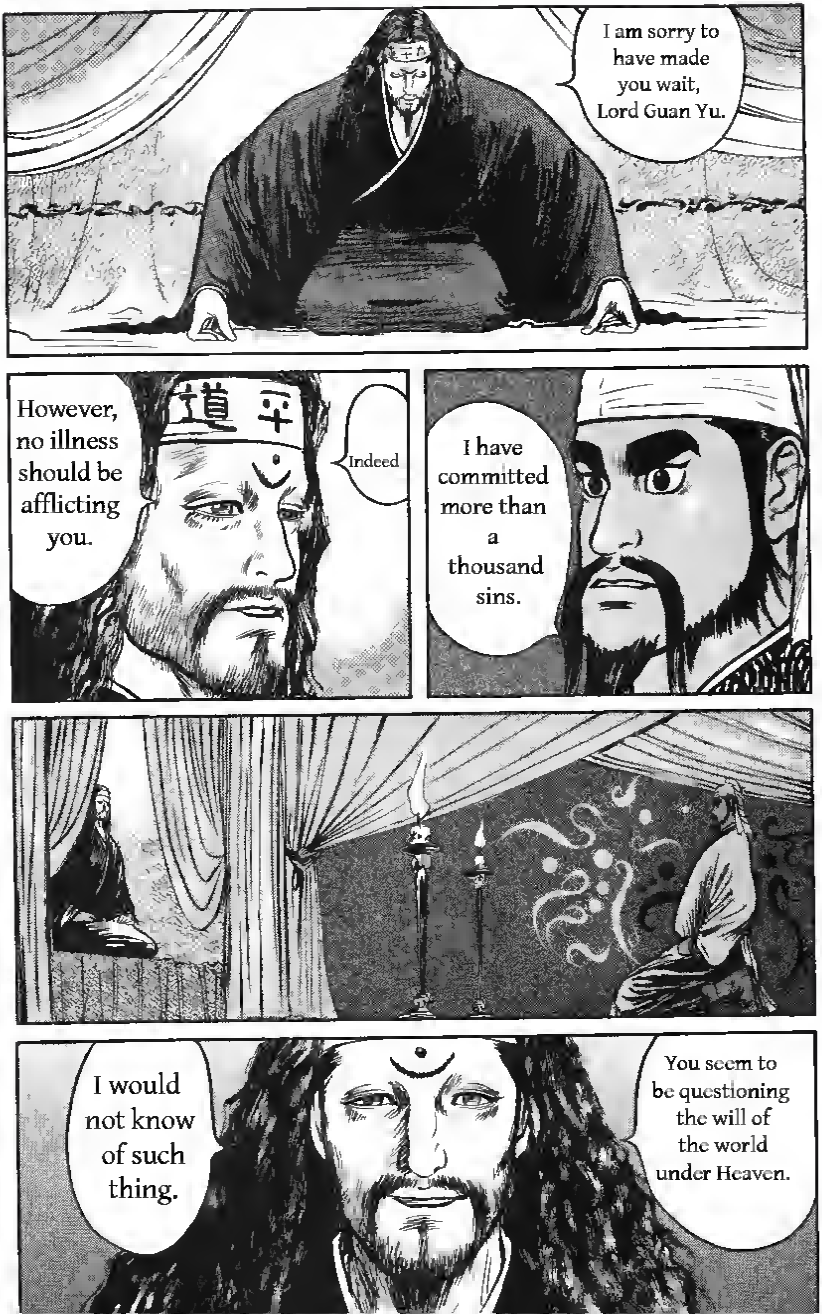

It seems they took the xia in, in order to strengthen their foundation.


The teachings of this Way of Great Peace show complete understanding for the xia's state of mind.
If you were to read the scriptures, you would understand.

In short, it is now that we can finally make this dream come true.
Yes
Our will had always been to gather the xia and bring justice to the world.
Guan Yu!
We, the xia, have decided to offer support to Lord Zhang Jue in order to avoid wasting precious blood and time.
We will thus take fortunes from corrupt officials and cruel rich people like we have until now and will offer help to the poor people who will come looking for Lord Zhang Jue, all one hundred thousand of them.
No! Chaos is not our aim.
In other words, the Way of Great Peace's aim is to start a rebellion against the Han Empire.
Join the Way of Great Peace and fight alongside us!
Guan Yu!

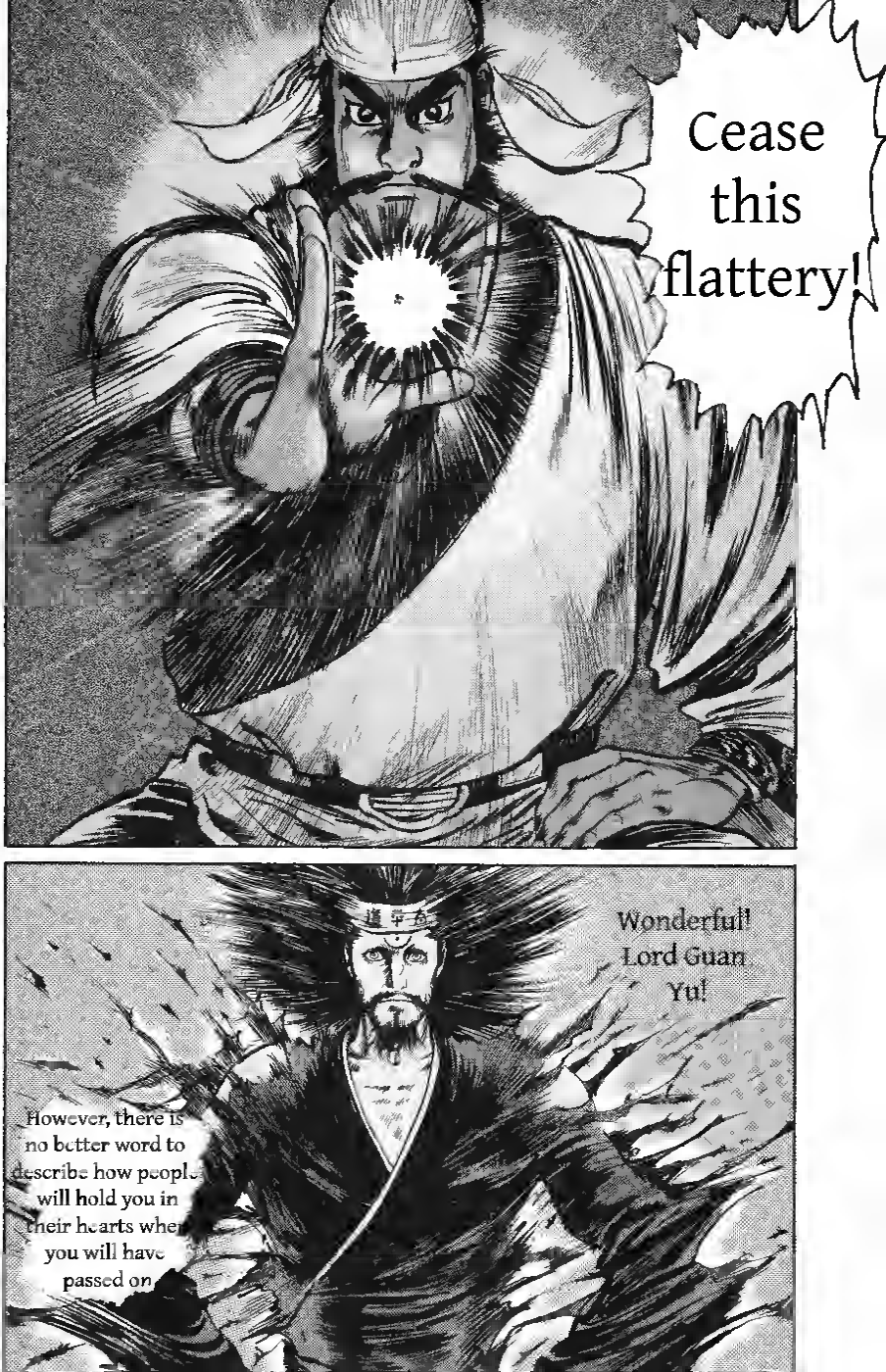
That would solve everything.
Should the leaders of Han want to join the Way of Great Peace, they are free to do so.
I see.
I find your idea most charming, but will you be able to achieve that?
Yes, with the help of Lord Zhang Jue, our Great Virtuous Teacher.


It is through penitence that the cause of said illness becomes clear.
All illnesses are punishment sent from Heaven.
Y-Yes! That's true!
Your sin has afflicted your right bowels and leg, hasn't it?
Gladly.
Yes! Thank you so very much! Bless you!
Recite the scripture and drink this charmed water every morning and every evening and you shall be healed.


I am sorry to have made you wait, Lord Guan Yu.
However, no illness should be afflicting you.
Indeed
I have committed more than a thousand sins.
I would not know of such thing.
You seem to be questioning the will of the world under Heaven.

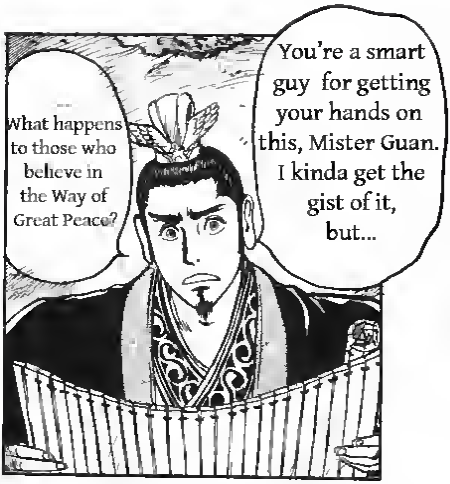
I merely answer to those voices who seek me.
...you seem to be close to a man who seeks to reign supreme over the world under Heaven.
On the contrary -
As long as you stand by him, he shall become the Son of Heaven

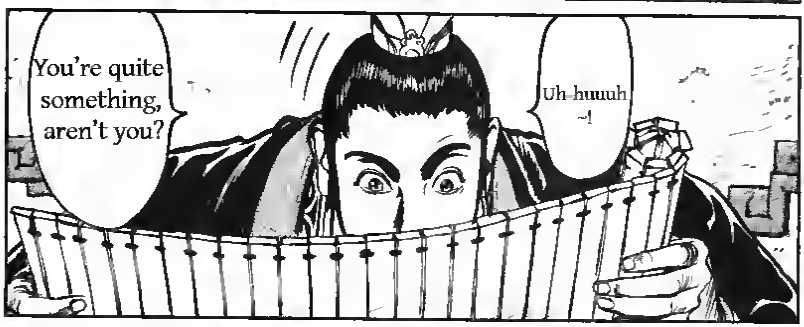
Me?!
... you shall become a god.
And in the world thereafter ...
What?
INDEED
A god!?

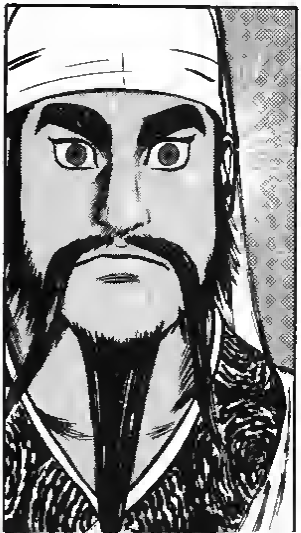

Cease this flattery!
Wonderful! Lord Guan Yu!
However, there is no better word to describe how people will hold you in their hearts when you will have passed on.

Silver Pouch Pub
Uh-huuuu-uuuh.
They'll be piling up fortunes worth millions and millions and will help the destitute while not offering any help to the better-off.
So they've added the xia state of mind to all this?
Man, this article is difficult.
Uuuugh...

To follow a path even if you don't understand it – that's what people do.

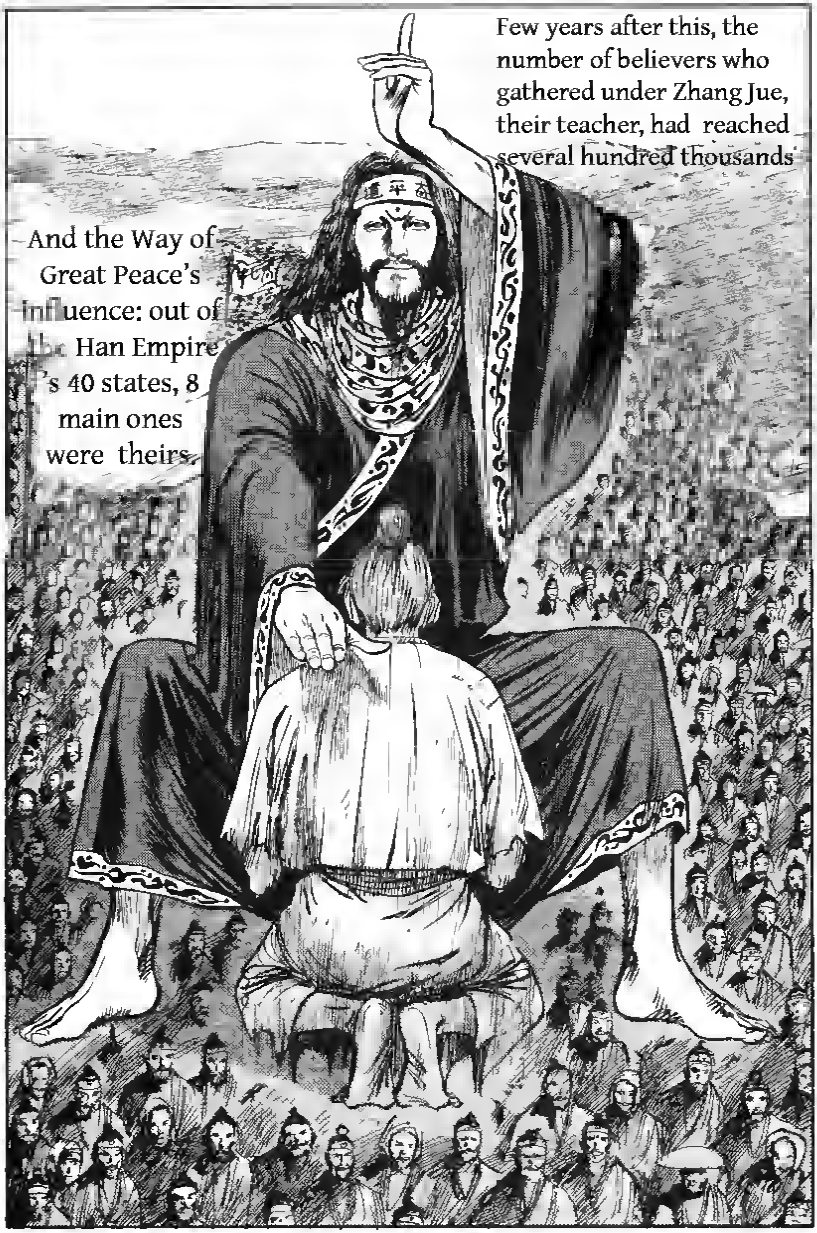

What happens to those who believe in the Way of Great Peace?
You're a smart guy for getting your hands on this, Mister Guan. I kinda get the gist of it, but...


You're quite something, aren't you?
Uh-huuuh~!



Still, Mister Guan.
These aren't xia.

Indeed.
Xia isn't something you can achieve with words only, is it?
Right?


Few years after this, the number of believers who gathered under Zhang Jue, their teacher, had reached several hundred thousands
And the Way of Great Peace's influence: out of the Han Empire's 40 states, 8 main ones were theirs.

●その三十八●

荀彧見参

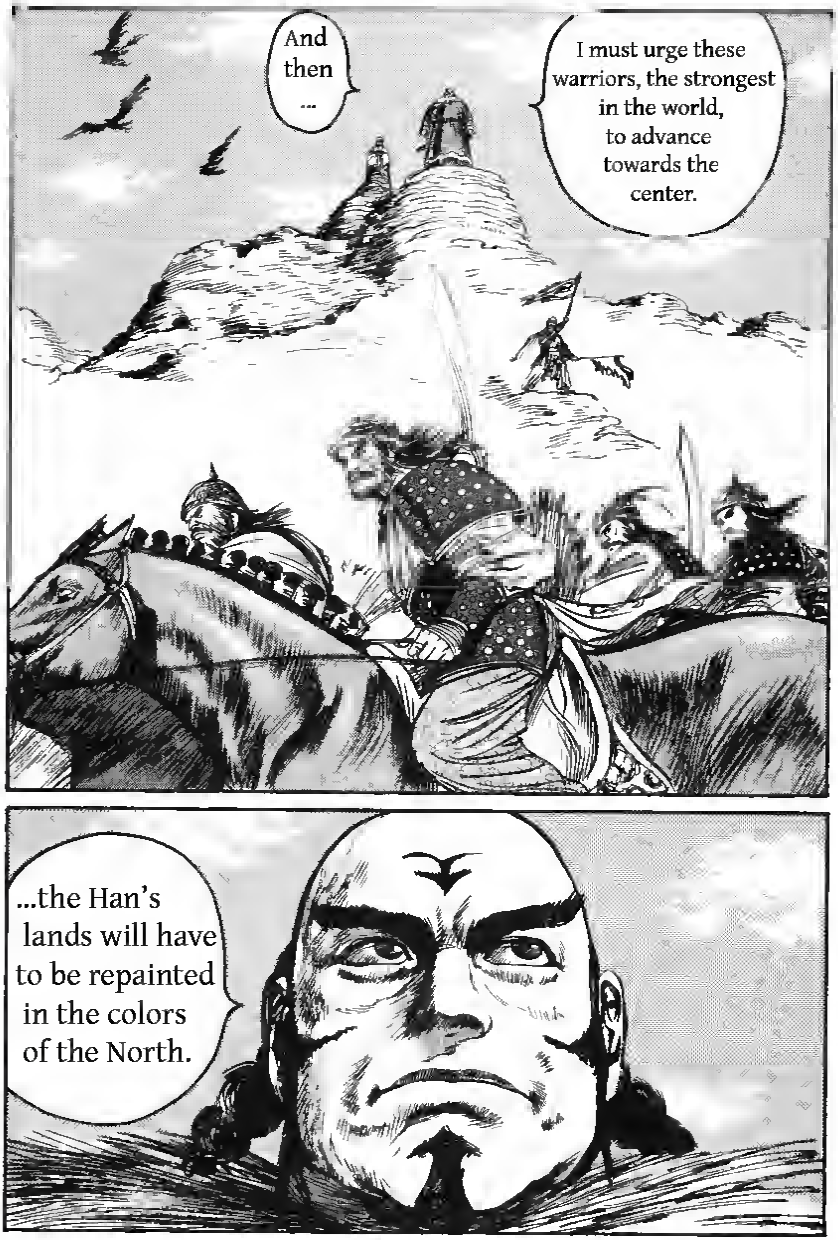
(じゅんいく)

Chapter 38

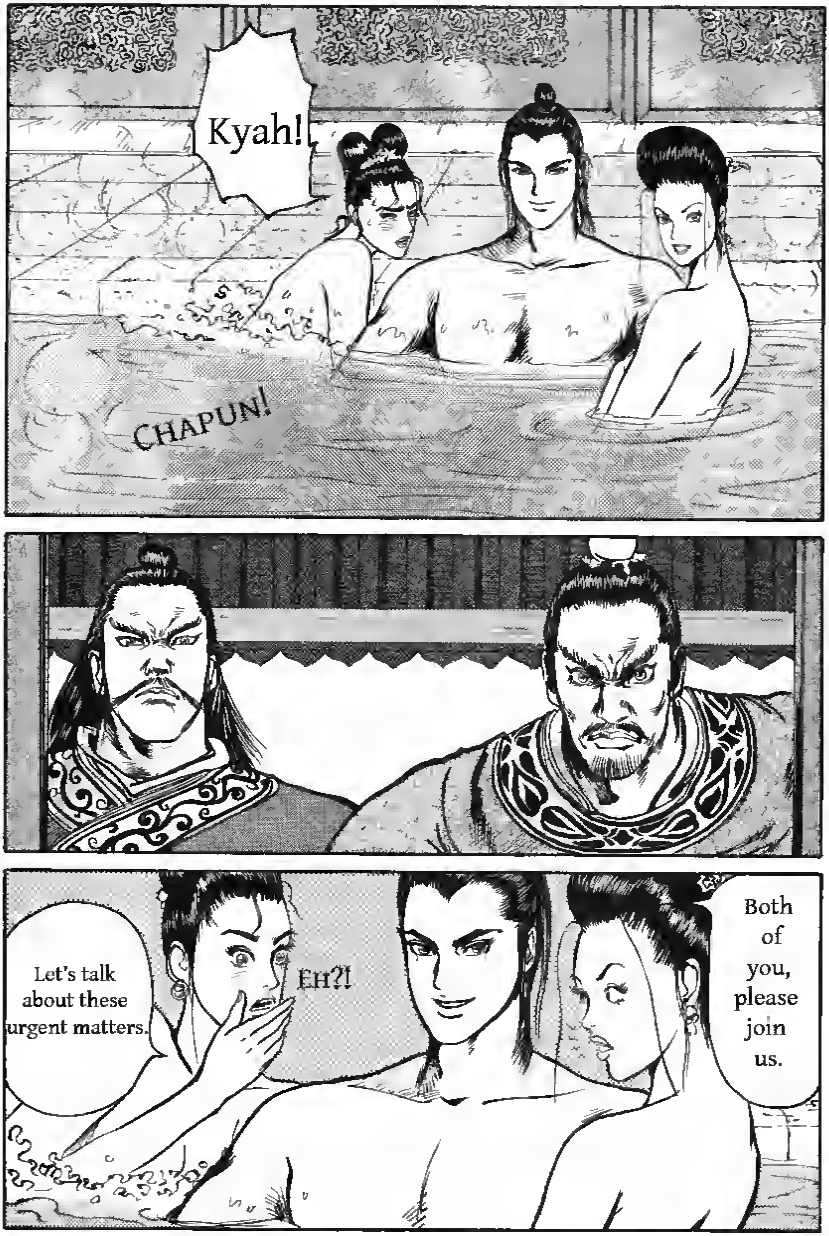
Enter Xun Yu

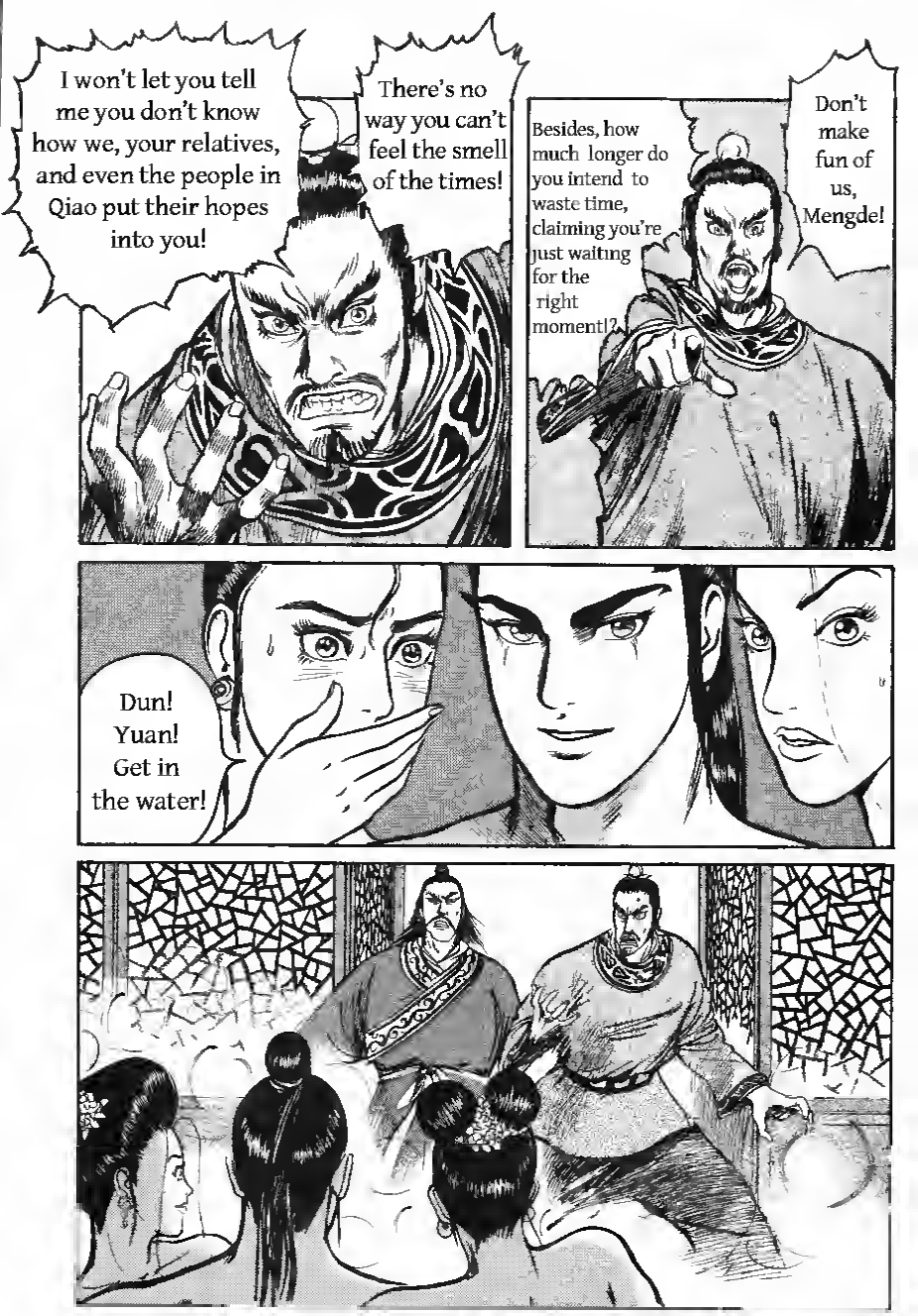
Western Liang – in the vicinity of the Han Empire's northern border
Haaaah.
Oh, my vast land.

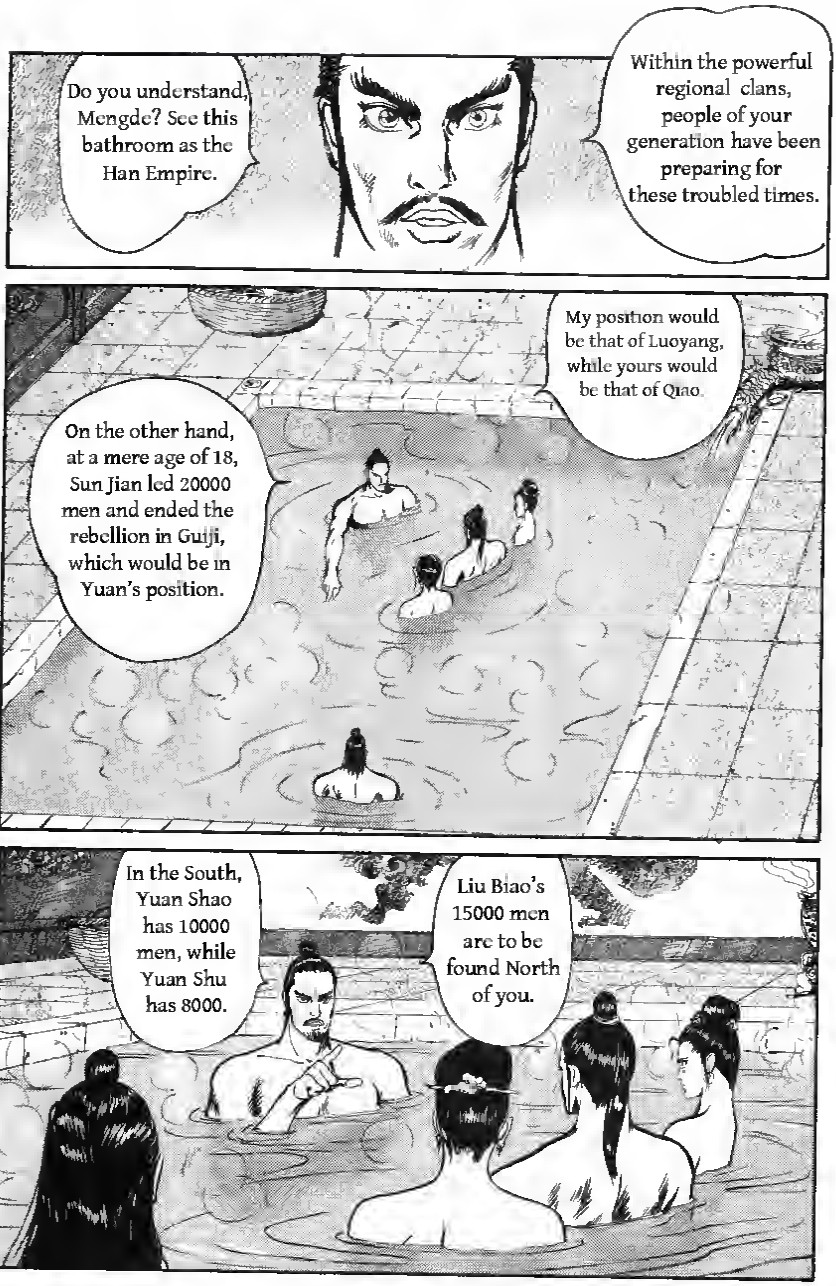
...raised this sublime, daring, resolute and beautiful folk.
The beautiful and austere lands of the North...
*Chanyu = the name used by the supreme leader of the equestrian tribes at the Empire's borders.
And only now has my path been shown by Heaven.
*Chanyu.
My Han Empire has forgotten its pride of 400 years and its greedy statesmen fight day and night for their own influence.

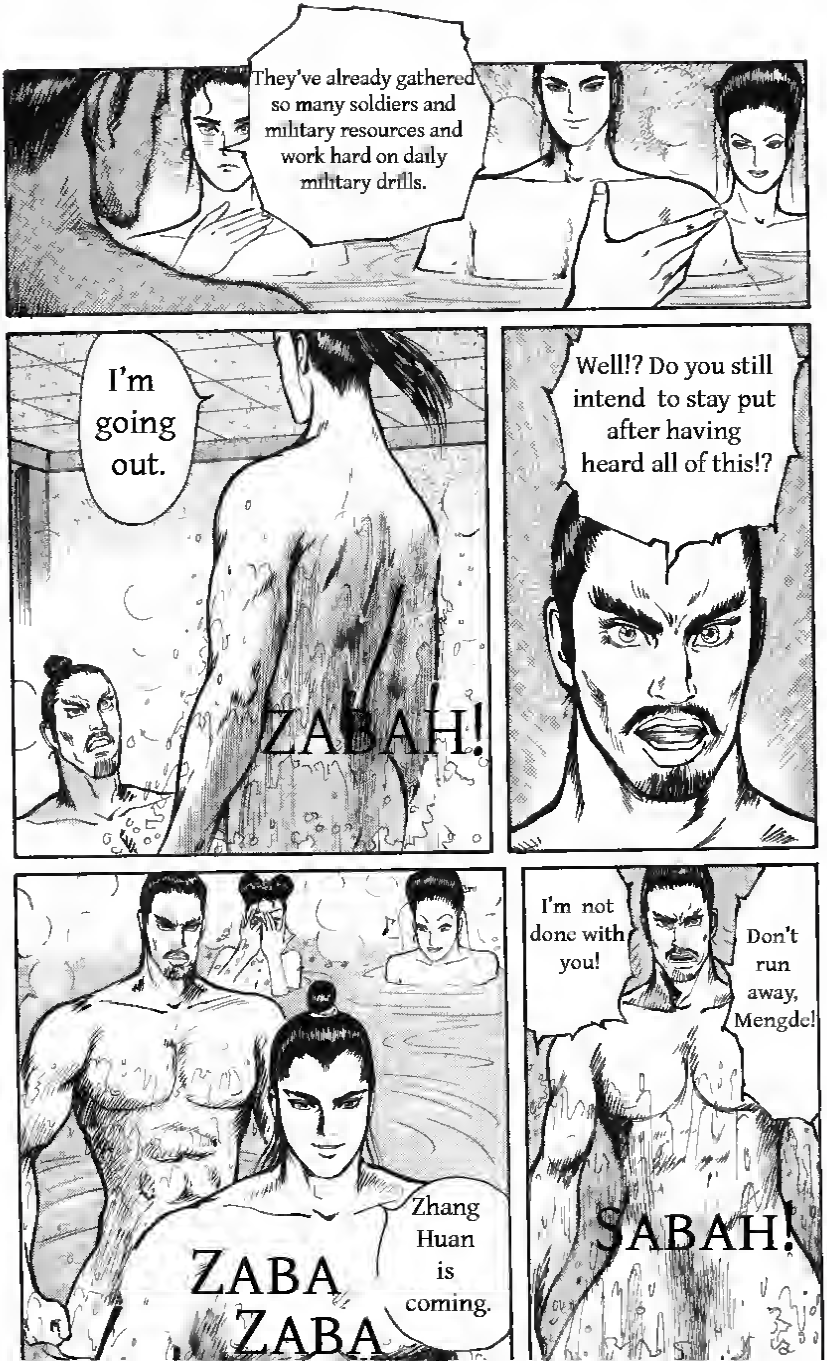

And then ...
I must urge these warriors, the strongest in the world, to advance towards the center.
...the Han's lands will have to be repainted in the colors of the North.

Yuzhou – Qiao. The Cao family's detached residence.
Eh!?
Mhm. Let them in.
The Xiahou brothers, too?
We're coming in, Mengde!
Ah!
Milord.
Lord Xiahou Dun and Lord Xiahou Yuan have come to talk about an urgent matter.

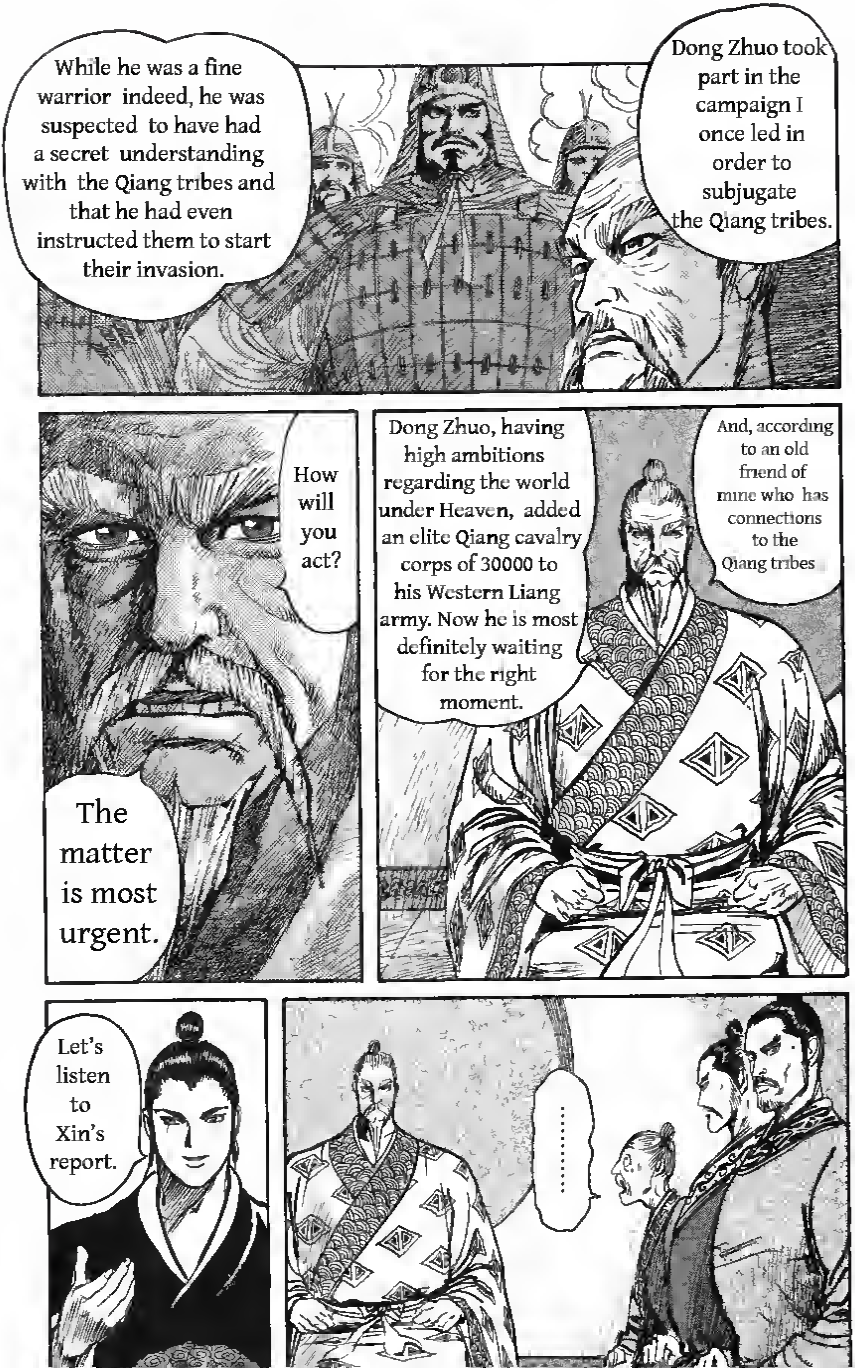

Kyah!
CHAPUN!
Let's talk about these urgent matters.
EH?!
Both of you, please join us.

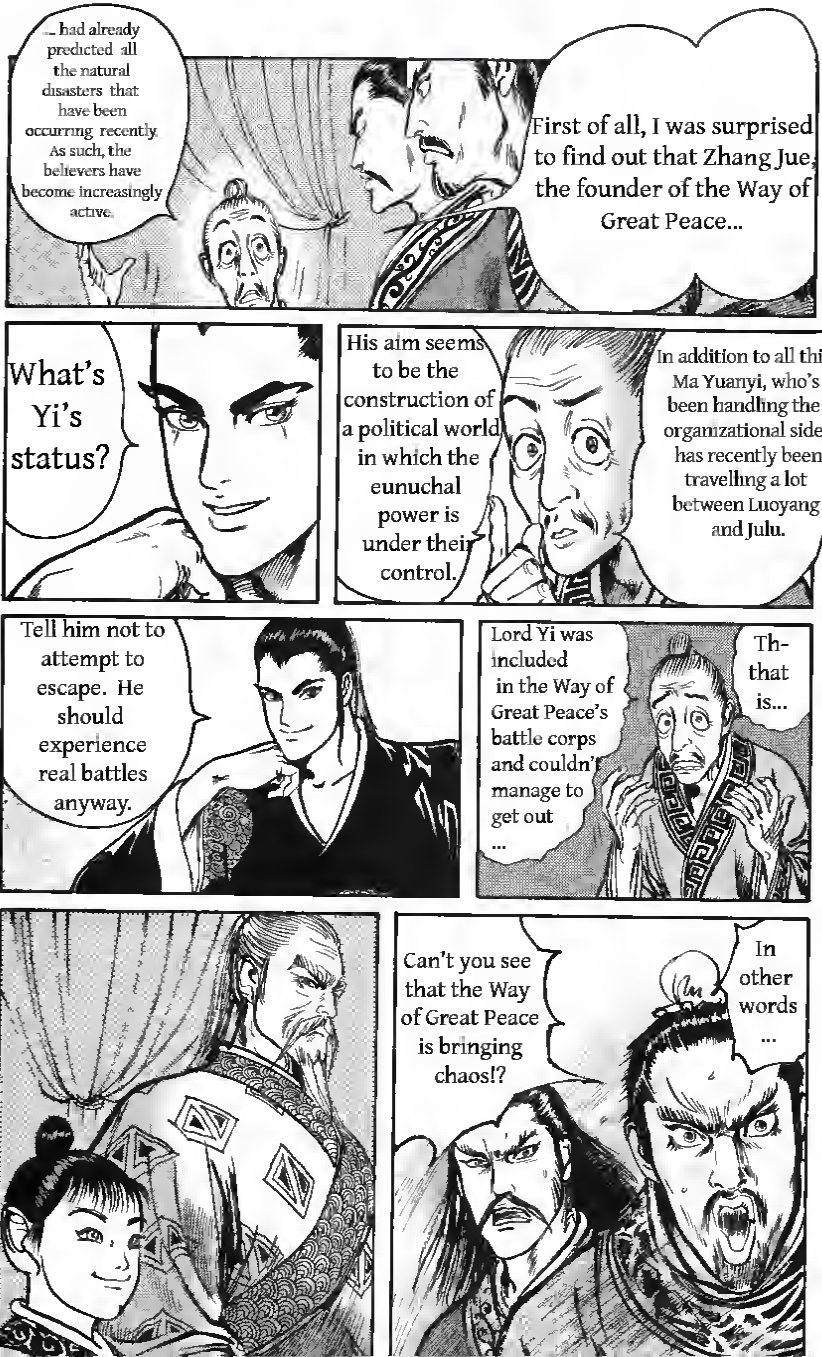

I won't let you tell me you don't know how we, your relatives, and even the people in Qiao put their hopes into you!
There's no way you can't feel the smell of the times!
Besides, how much longer do you intend to waste time, claiming you're just waiting for the right moment!?
Don't make fun of us, Mengde!
Dun! Yuan! Get in the water!


Do you understand, Mengde? See this bathroom as the Han Empire.
Within the powerful regional clans, people of your generation have been preparing for these troubled times.
My position would be that of Luoyang, while yours would be that of Qiao.
On the other hand, at a mere age of 18, Sun Jian led 20000 men and ended the rebellion in Guiji, which would be in Yuan's position.
In the South, Yuan Shao has 10000 men, while Yuan Shu has 8000.
Liu Biao's 15000 men are to be found North of you.


They've already gathered so many soldiers and military resources and work hard on daily military drills.
I'm going out.
ZABAH!
Well!? Do you still intend to stay put after having heard all of this!?
ZABA ZABA
Zhang Huan is coming.
I'm not done with you!
Don't run away, Mengde!
SABAH!

...I would request that we shorten the greeting ceremony, as I bring urgent reports.
While much time has passed since we last met...
Who is the child besides you?
Lord Zhang Huan
Since he was having an interesting dialogue with the gate watcher in the entry hall, I brought him inside by my own discretion
One without relatives or relations
He's the governor-general of Western Liang, leader of 100000 men.
Do you have knowledge of the man named Dong Zhuo?
It might be sudden, but Lord Cao Cao.


While he was a fine warrior indeed, he was suspected to have had a secret understanding with the Qiang tribes and that he had even instructed them to start their invasion.
Dong Zhuo took part in the campaign I once led in order to subjugate the Qiang tribes.
How will you act?
The matter is most urgent.
Dong Zhuo, having high ambitions regarding the world under Heaven, added an elite Qiang cavalry corps of 30000 to his Western Liang army. Now he is most definitely waiting for the right moment.
And, according to an old friend of mine who has connections to the Qiang tribes
Let's listen to Xin's report.
.....


...had already predicted all the natural disasters that have been occurring recently. As such, the believers have become increasingly active.
First of all, I was surprised to find out that Zhang Jue, the founder of the Way of Great Peace...
What's Yi's status?
His aim seems to be the construction of a political world in which the eunuchal power is under their control.
In addition to all this, Ma Yuanyi, who's been handling the organizational side, has recently been travelling a lot between Luoyang and Julu.
Tell him not to attempt to escape. He should experience real battles anyway.
Lord Yi was included in the Way of Great Peace's battle corps and couldn't manage to get out ...
Th-that is...
Can't you see that the Way of Great Peace is bringing chaos!?
In other words ...

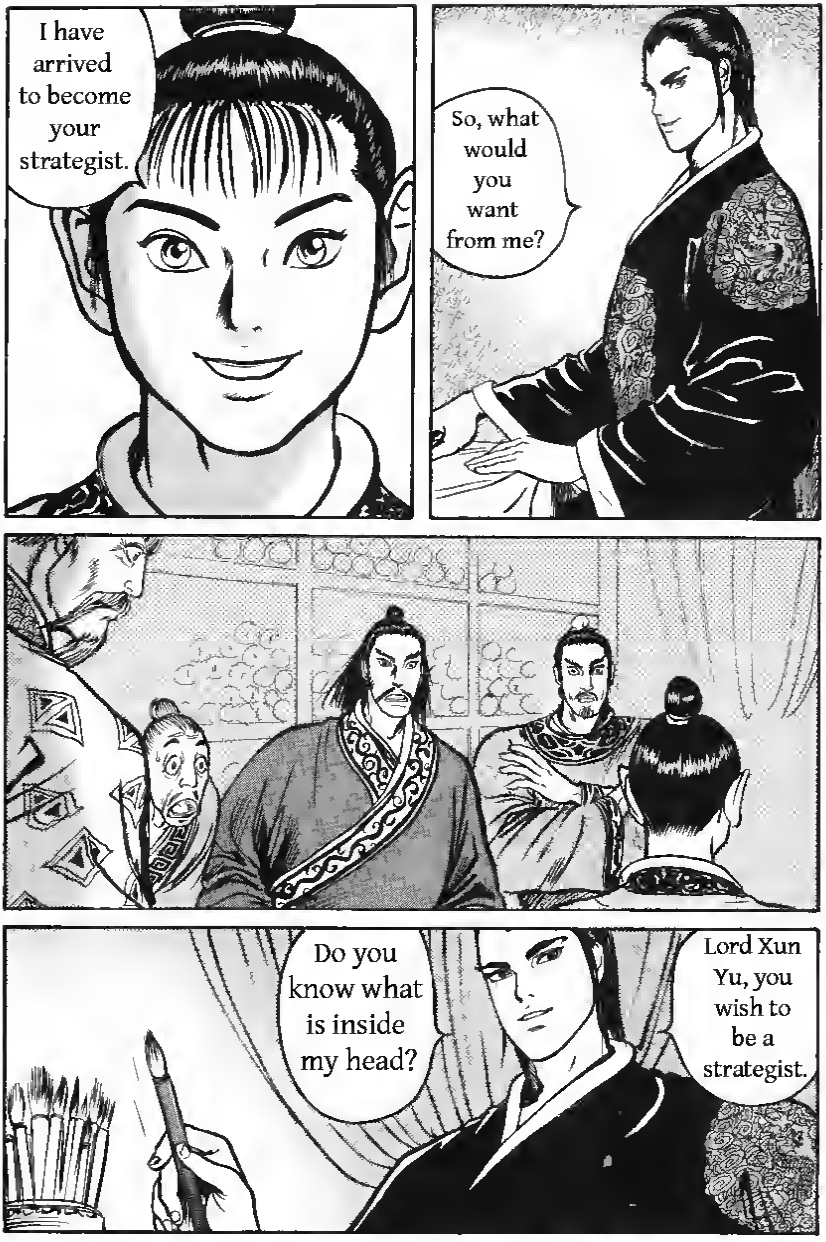
SHUH!
SHUH!
SHUH!
Lord Zhang Huan.
If Dong Zhuo were to have a connection in the center of the land, which would that be?
SHUH!
SHUH!
Wang Yun, the Minister over the Masses*.
Recently, it's been quite hard to track all the movements that the greater forces have been making.
We shall diligently keep an eye out for this connection from the center.

*Minister over the Masses = Official in charge of civil matters. One of the highest positions in the Han Dynasty.

We should send word across the land immediately and gather as many soldiers as possible!
That's right!
Mengde! That just won't do!
ガバッ
He who can modify his tactics in relation to his opponent and thereby succeed in winning, may be called a heaven-born captain.*
Just as water retains no constant shape, so in warfare there are no constant conditions.
If Dong Zhuo were to enter the city with his 30000 cavalry corps, Luoyang would fall most easily.
The government army has little battle experience. Moreover, it is now busy cleaning up after the natural disasters.
!

*Translator's note: This is a quote from Sun Tzu.

The world led by Dong Zhuo's despotism and tyranny.
What would follow would be a war -torn world.
... should be to put a stop to Dong Zhuo's ambition before it takes shape.
As such, our highest priority ...
My name is Xun Yu Wenruo!
Aye!
What did you say your name was?


I have arrived to become your strategist.
So, what would you want from me?
Lord Xun Yu, you wish to be a strategist.
Do you know what is inside my head?

Yes.
Rule over disorder with disorder!
Quite impressive, Xun Yu.

蒼天已死

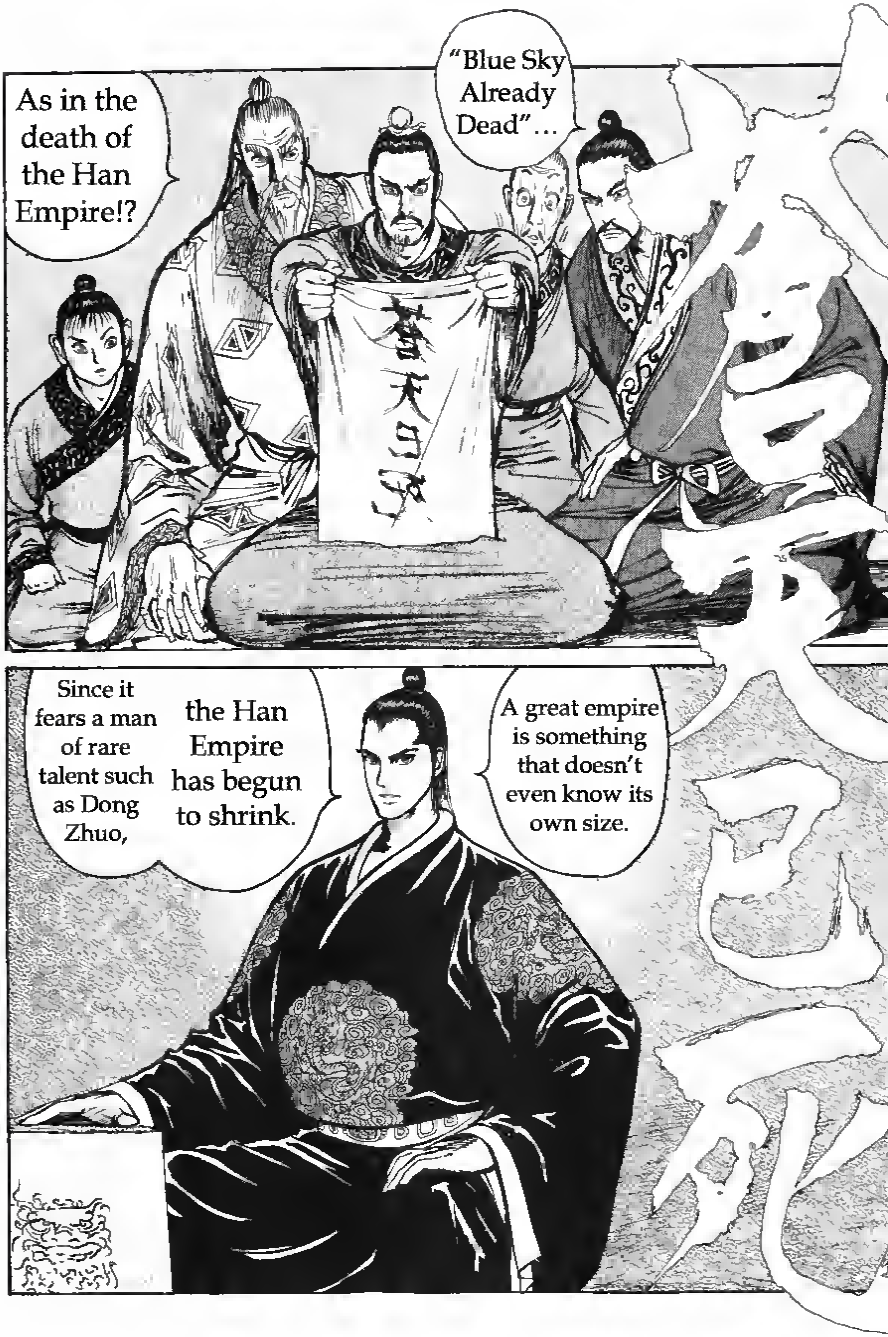
"BLUE SKY ALREADY DEAD"

その三十八
荀或見参／おわり

Translator : Lion of Genesis
Editor : Shin

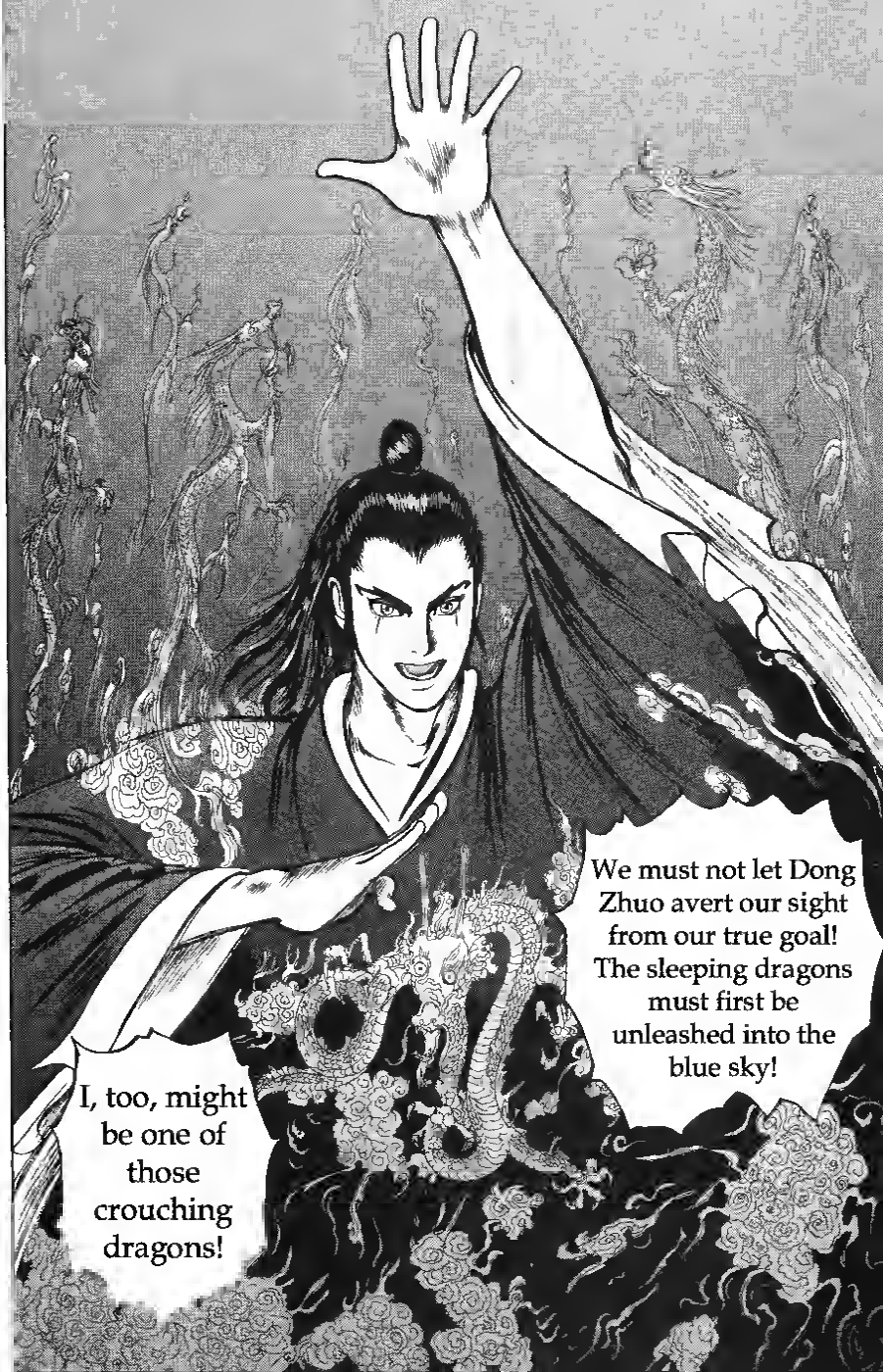
●その三十九●
群龍、目覚める

●Chapter 39●
A Host Of Dragons Awakens

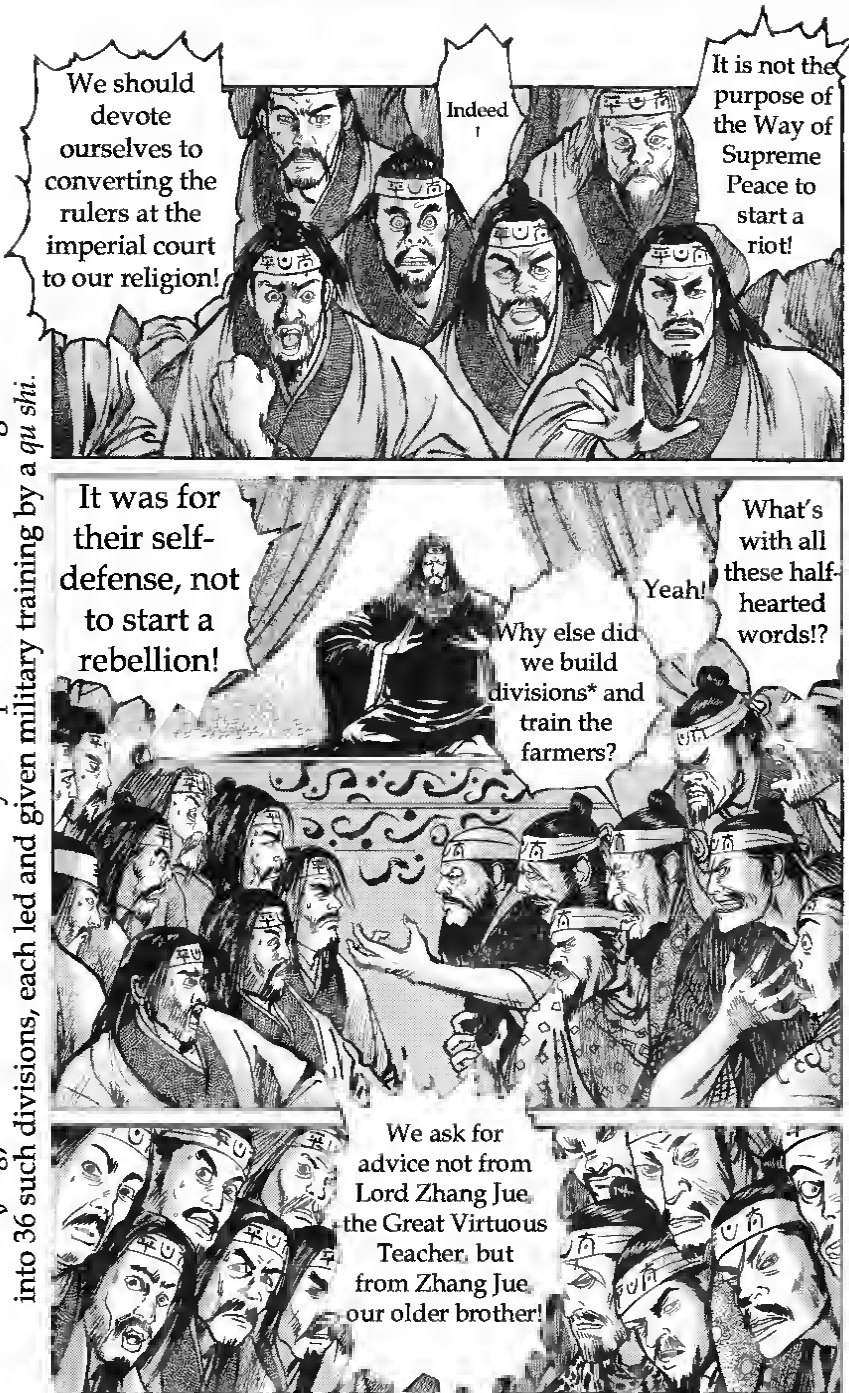

"Blue Sky Already Dead"...
As in the death of the Han Empire!?
Since it fears a man of rare talent such as Dong Zhuo,
the Han Empire has begun to shrink.
A great empire is something that doesn't even know its own size.

*Translator's note: "crouching dragon" is a term used to describe outstanding people who live in isolation or haven't shown their talent. It was later used to describe Zhuge Liang.

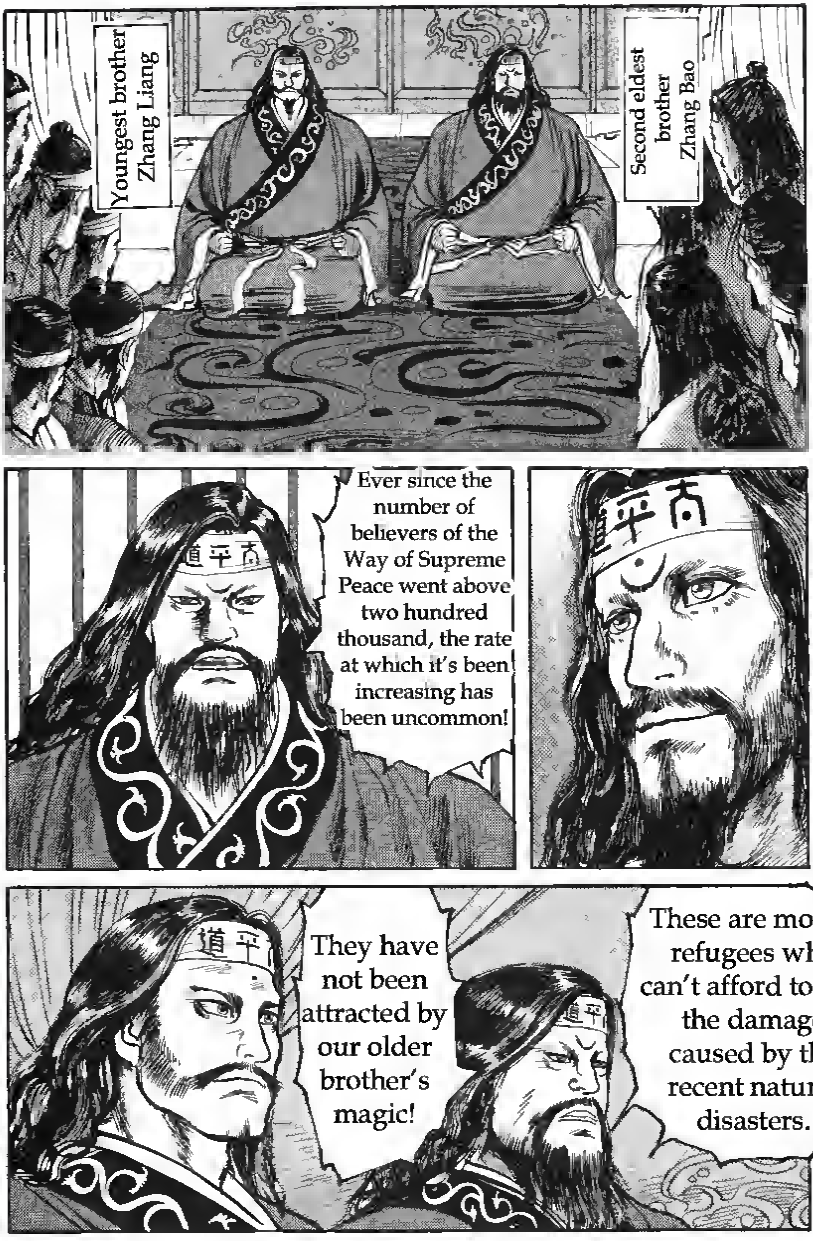
... but that also means that it devoured many sleeping dragons*.
In its 400 years of existence, the Han Empire has survived many rebellions and kept its place...
... then crouching dragons will show up throughout the land.
If the Han Empire starts to shrink...
... will be the heralds that will release all those dragons from the blue sky so that they may one day return to that blue sky*.
Thus, these four words ...

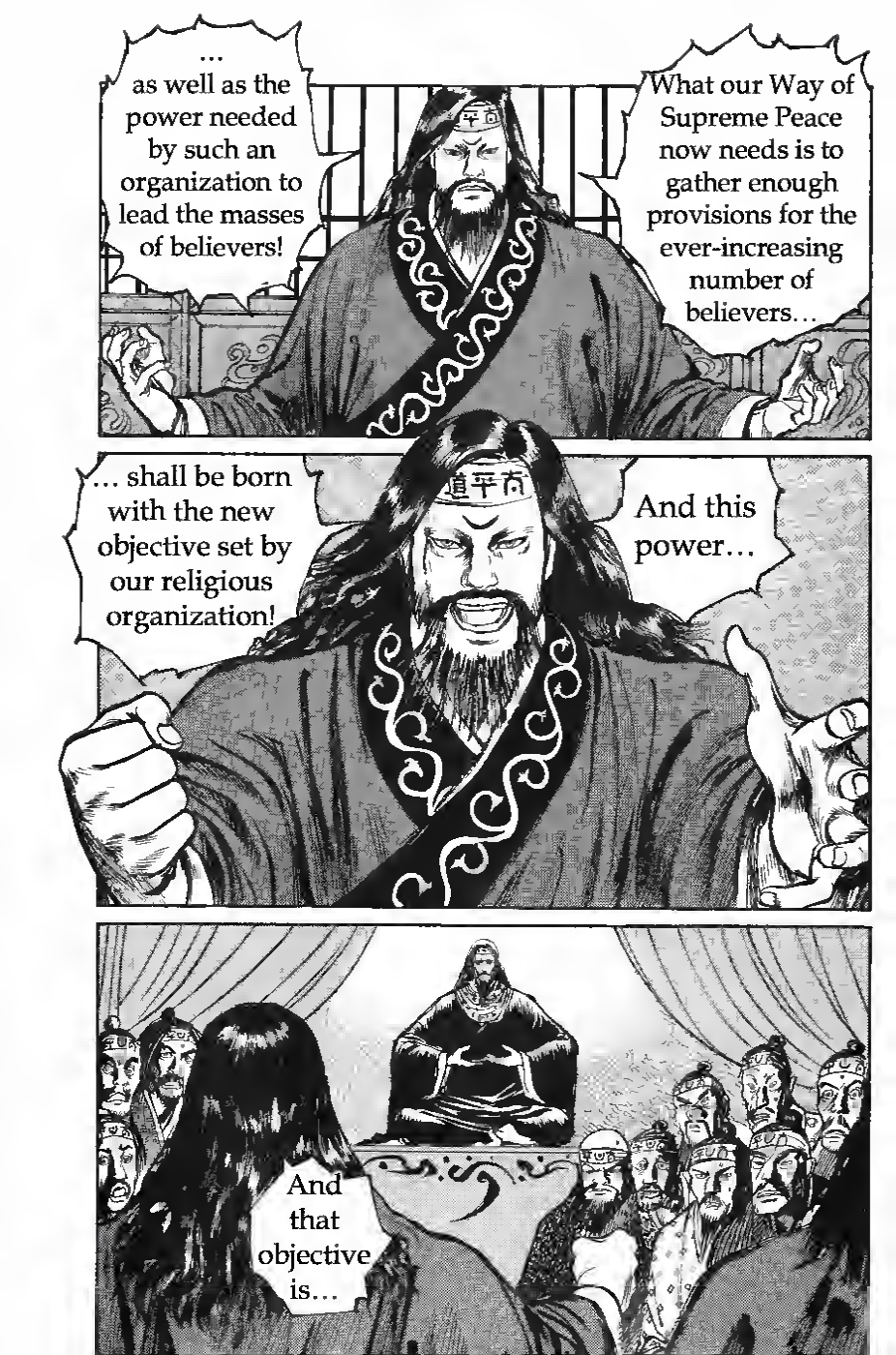

We must not let Dong Zhuo avert our sight from our true goal! The sleeping dragons must first be unleashed into the blue sky!
I, too, might be one of those crouching dragons!

Yangzhou
Kuaji county
Yizhou
Shu County
Yuzhou
Runan county
SFX:
GAH!
Jizhou
Julu county
The path of supreme peace under Heaven and impartiality for all will not be one of bloodshed!!


We should devote ourselves to converting the rulers at the imperial court to our religion!
Indeed!
It is not the purpose of the Way of Supreme Peace to start a riot!
It was for their self-defense, not to start a rebellion!
Why else did we build divisions* and train the farmers?
Yeah!
What's with all these half-hearted words!?
We ask for advice not from Lord Zhang Jue, the Great Virtuous Teacher, but from Zhang Jue, our older brother!

*division (*fang*) – the followers of the Way of Supreme Peace were organized into 36 such divisions, each led and given military training by a *qu shi*.


Youngest brother Zhang Liang
Second eldest brother Zhang Bao
Ever since the number of believers of the Way of Supreme Peace went above two hundred thousand, the rate at which it's been increasing has been uncommon!
They have not been attracted by our older brother's magic!
These are mostly refugees who can't afford to pay the damage caused by the recent natural disasters.

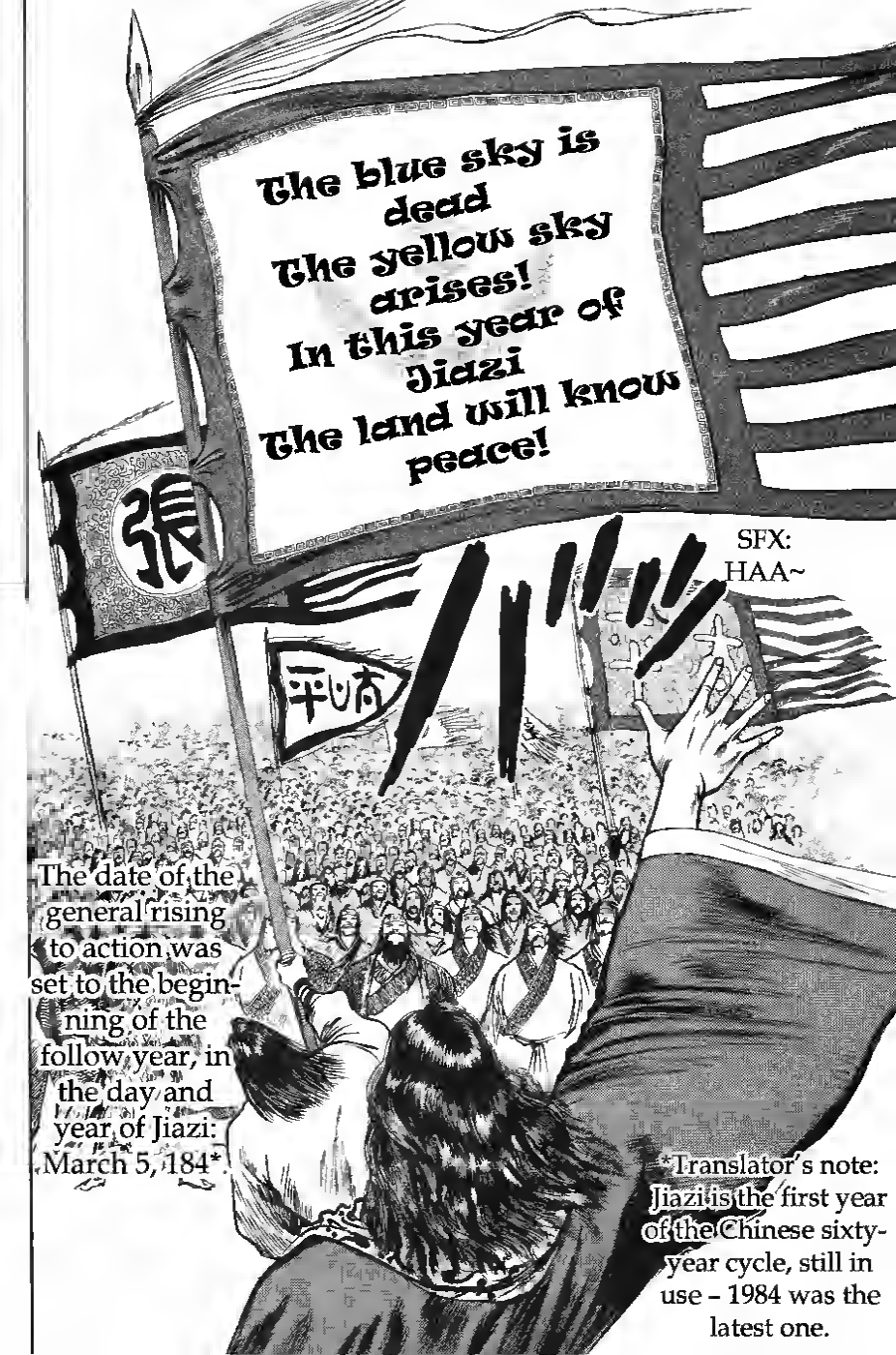

...
as well as the power needed by such an organization to lead the masses of believers!
What our Way of Supreme Peace now needs is to gather enough provisions for the ever-increasing number of believers...
... shall be born with the new objective set by our religious organization!
And this power...
And that objective is...

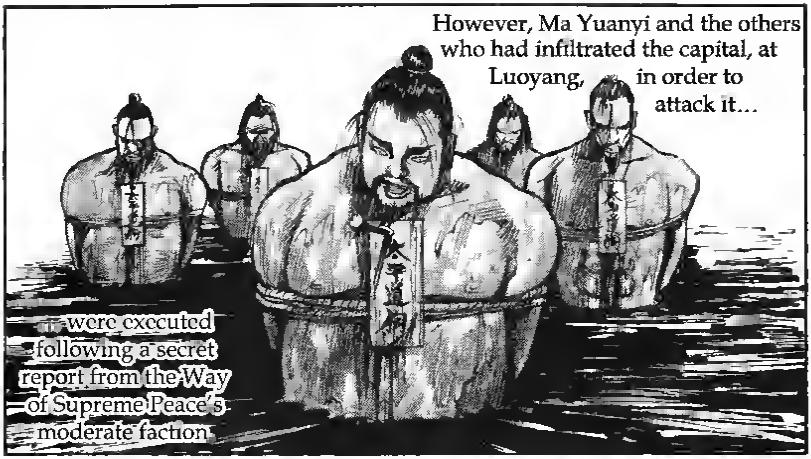
*Yellow was the symbol color of the Way of Supreme Peace.

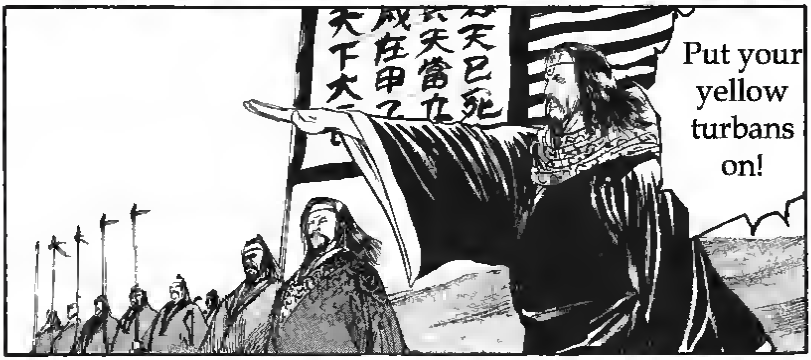
Yellow Sky ...
A new dynasty
Now that our Way of Supreme Peace is at such a crossroad ...
... what is your opinion, older brother !?

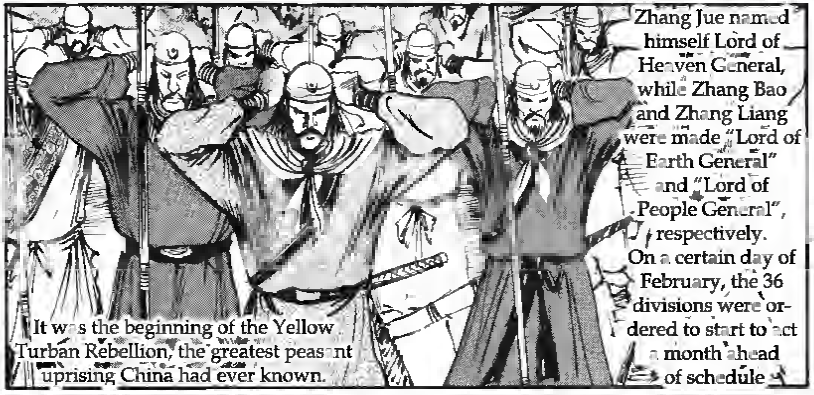
If I were to answer to Zhang Bao's voice, I would turn over three hundred thousand believers into rebels.
The Mandate of Heaven now lies with the Emperor and the Han Empire that he leads.
Nay! The Han Empire's Mandate is has come to an end!
These four words that have been scattered across the land are the voice of the world under Heaven!

The world is filled with these words!?
What did you say!?
In that case...
... let these four words be recorded as my Mandate of Heaven!

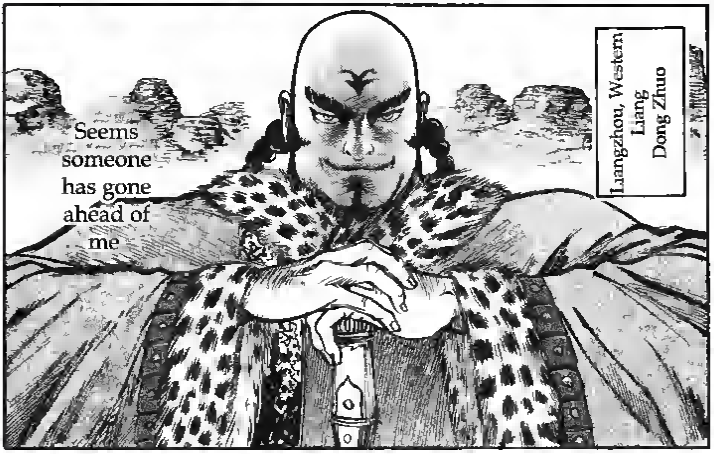

The blue sky is dead
The yellow sky arises!
In this year of Jiazi
The land will know peace!
SFX: HAA~
The date of the general rising to action was set to the beginning of the follow year, in the day and year of Jiazi: March 5, 184*.
*Translator's note: Jiazi is the first year of the Chinese sixty-year cycle, still in use – 1984 was the latest one.


However, Ma Yuanyi and the others who had infiltrated the capital, at Luoyang, in order to attack it...
...were executed following a secret report from the Way of Supreme Peace's moderate faction.

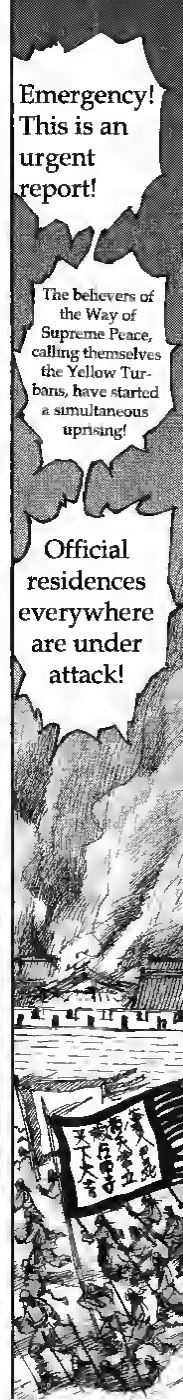

Put your yellow turbans on!

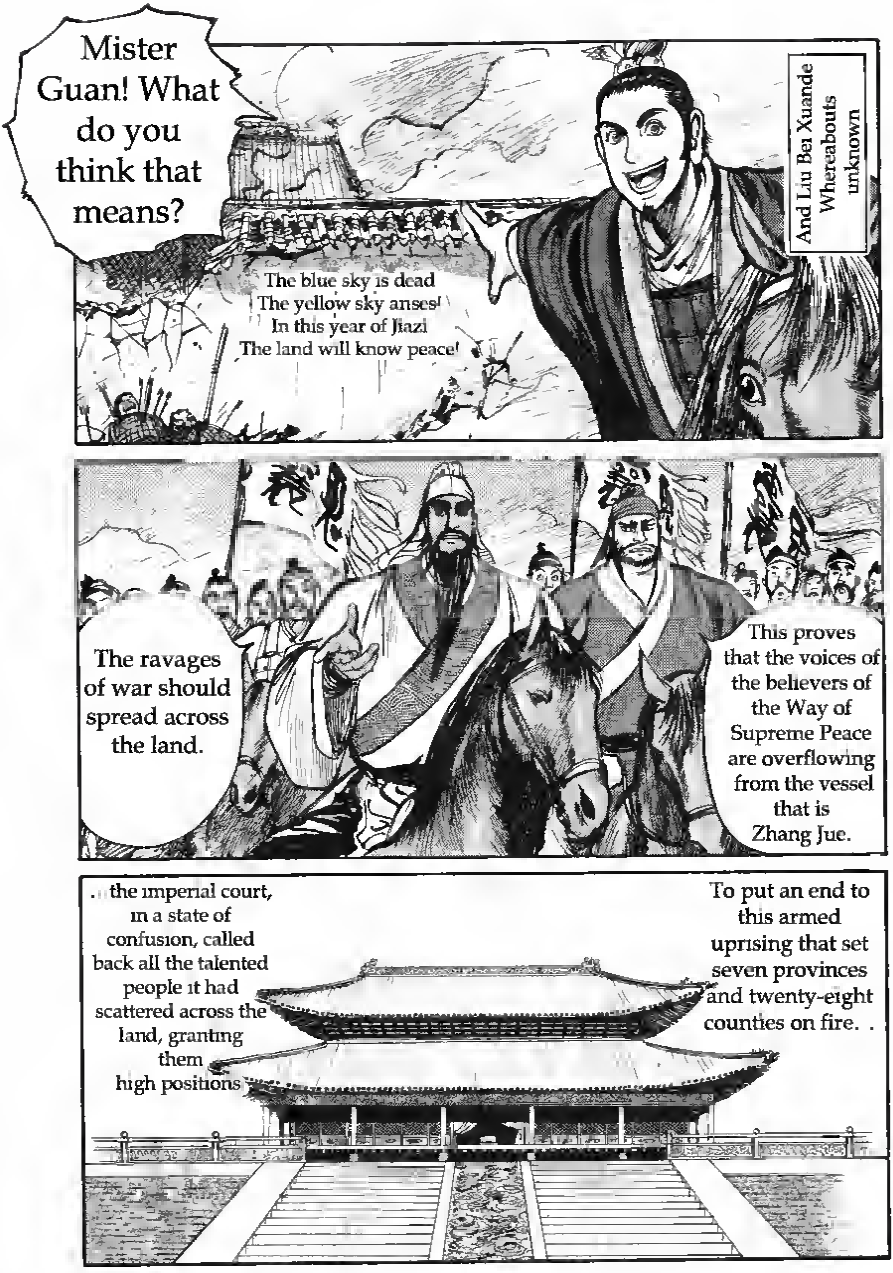

Zhang Jue named himself Lord of Heaven General, while Zhang Bao and Zhang Liang were made "Lord of Earth General" and "Lord of People General", respectively. On a certain day of February, the 36 divisions were ordered to start to act a month ahead of schedule.
It was the beginning of the Yellow Turban Rebellion, the greatest peasant uprising China had ever known.

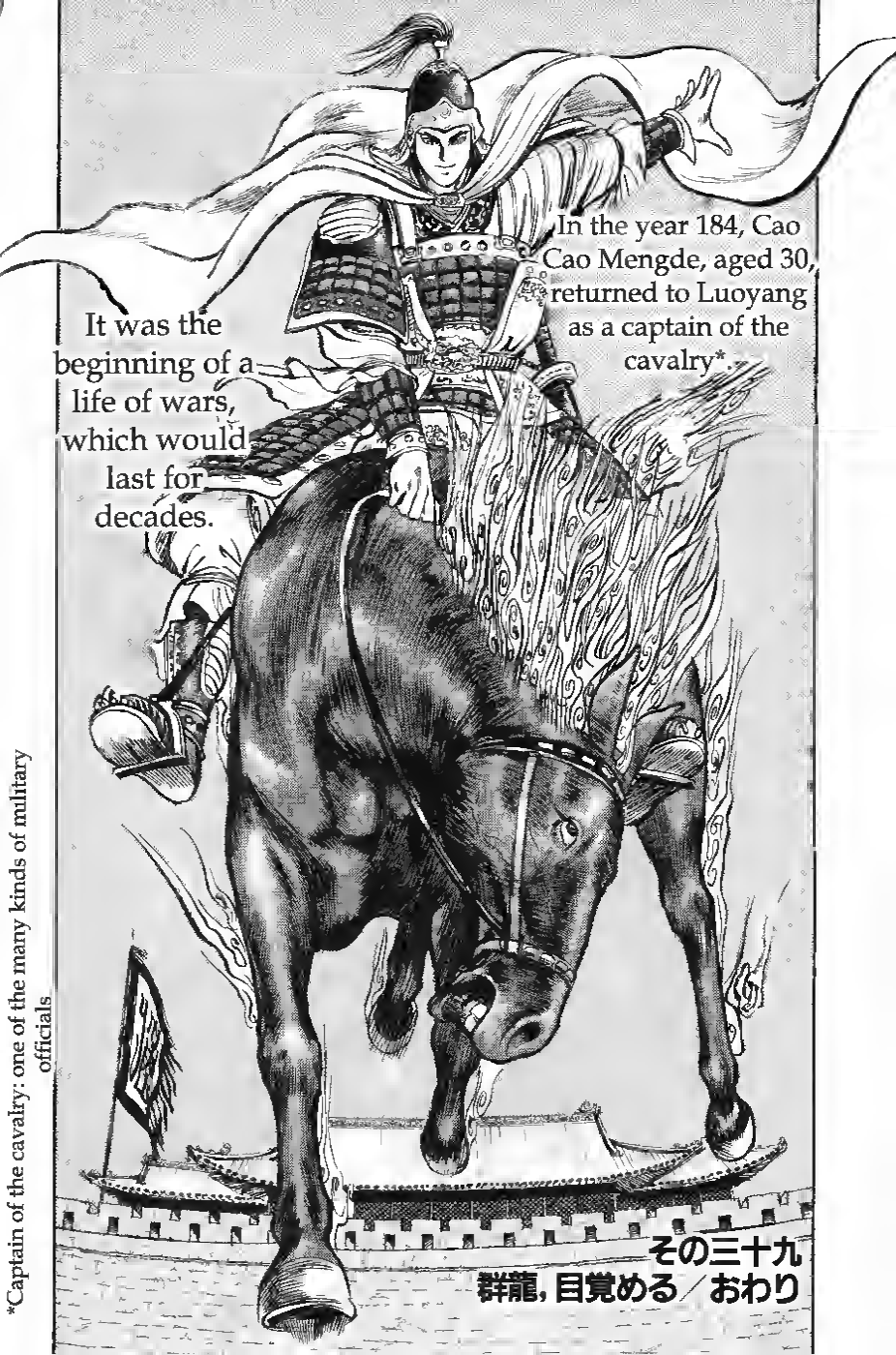
Do not panic!
Luoyang, Palace of Warm Benevolence
Zhang Rang


Seems someone has gone ahead of me
Liangzhou, Western Liang
Dong Zhuo

We must hurry!
Yuzhou, Runan county
Yuan Shao


Emergency! This is an urgent report!
The believers of the Way of Supreme Peace, calling themselves the Yellow Turbans, have started a simultaneous uprising!
Official residences everywhere are under attack!


Mister Guan! What do you think that means?
The blue sky is dead
The yellow sky arises!
In this year of Jiazi
The land will know peace!
And Liu Bei Xuande
Whereabouts unknown
The ravages of war should spread across the land.
This proves that the voices of the believers of the Way of Supreme Peace are overflowing from the vessel that is Zhang Jue.
. . the imperial court, in a state of confusion, called back all the talented people it had scattered across the land, granting them high positions
To put an end to this armed uprising that set seven provinces and twenty-eight counties on fire. .


In the year 184, Cao Cao Mengde, aged 30, returned to Luoyang as a captain of the cavalry*.
It was the beginning of a life of wars, which would last for decades.

*Captain of the cavalry: one of the many kinds of military officials

その三十九
群龍，目覚める／おわり

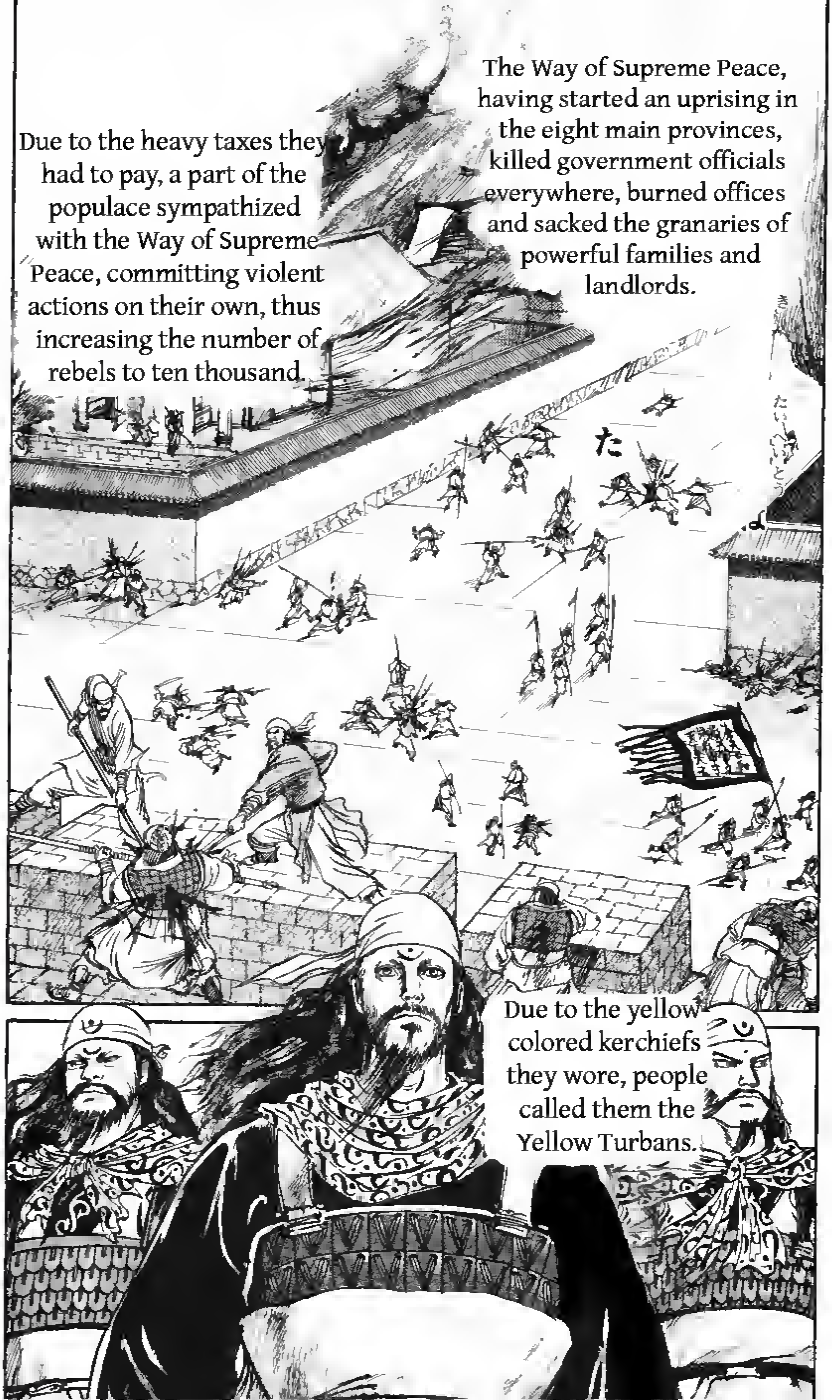
Chapter 40

We Have Arrived!

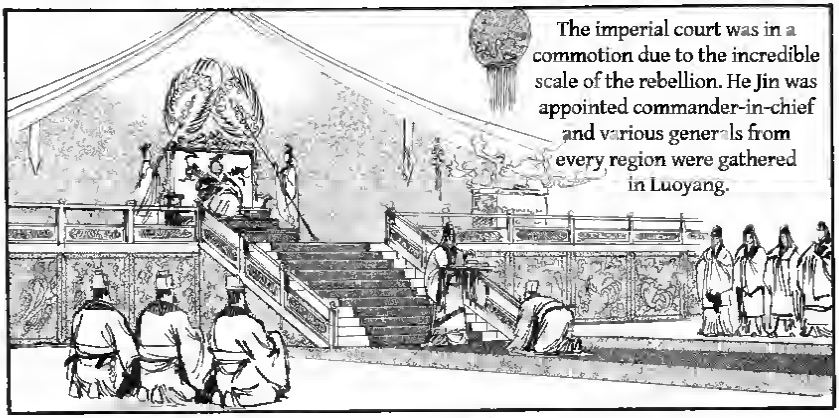
◐その四十◐

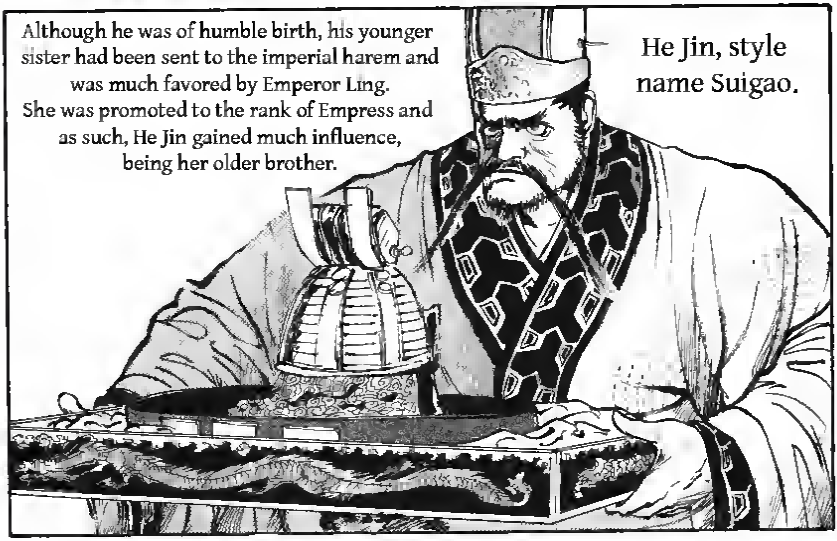
ただ今参上!!

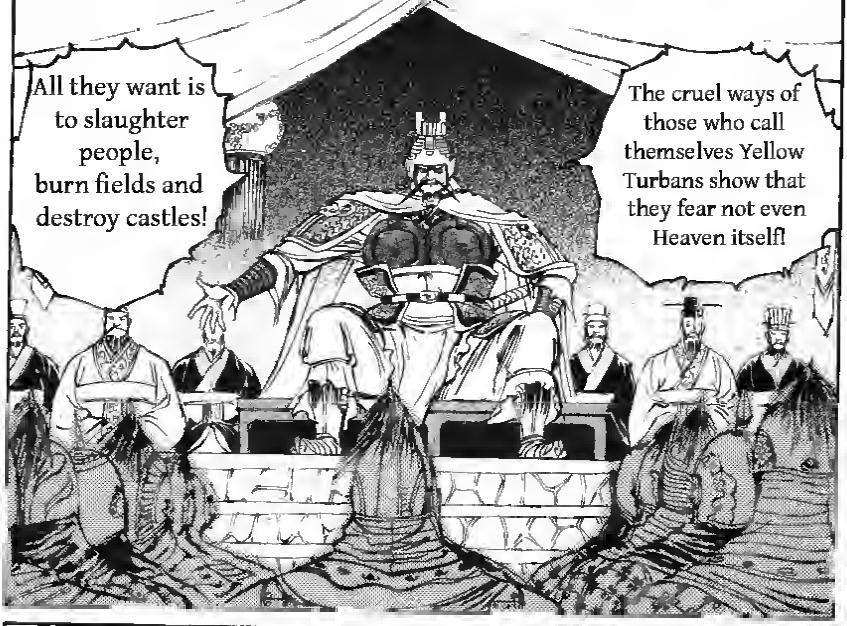
Translator: Lion of Genesis
Editor: NoDeerSkulls


Due to the heavy taxes they had to pay, a part of the populace sympathized with the Way of Supreme Peace, committing violent actions on their own, thus increasing the number of rebels to ten thousand.
The Way of Supreme Peace, having started an uprising in the eight main provinces, killed government officials everywhere, burned offices and sacked the granaries of powerful families and landlords.
Due to the yellow colored kerchiefs they wore, people called them the Yellow Turbans.

Please leave this to me.

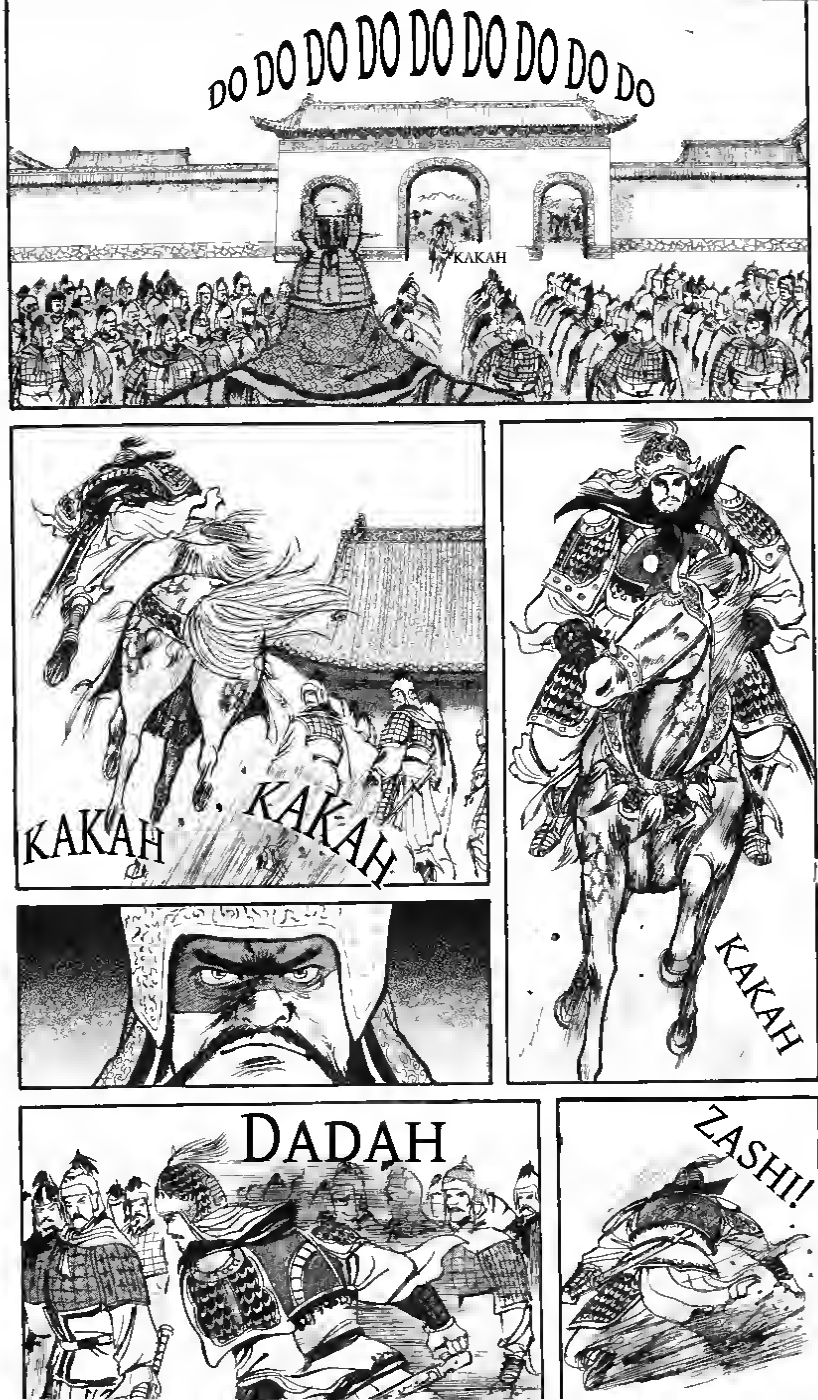

The imperial court was in a commotion due to the incredible scale of the rebellion. He Jin was appointed commander-in-chief and various generals from every region were gathered in Luoyang.

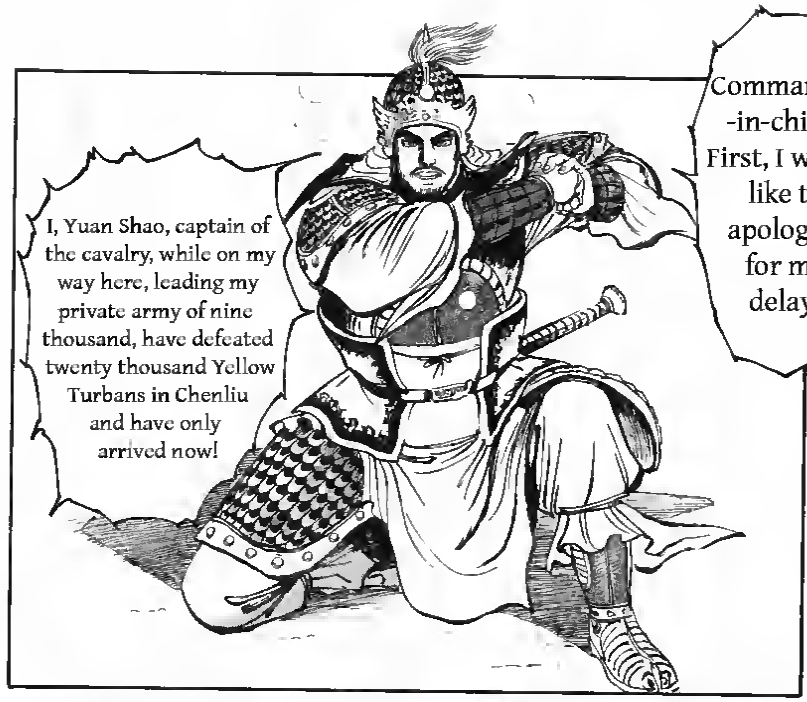

Although he was of humble birth, his younger sister had been sent to the imperial harem and was much favored by Emperor Ling.
She was promoted to the rank of Empress and as such, He Jin gained much influence, being her older brother.
He Jin, style name Suigao.


All they want is to slaughter people, burn fields and destroy castles!
The cruel ways of those who call themselves Yellow Turbans show that they fear not even Heaven itself!

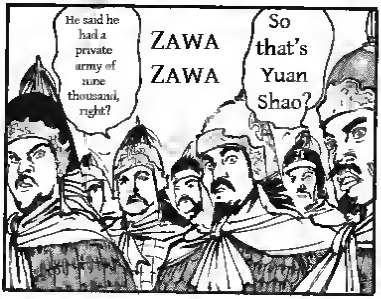
In the name of our Han Empire, we must subdue the Yellow Turbans as quickly as possible!
As such, our land can not know peace until we put an end to this.

*Grasshoppers = locusts who attack the crops.

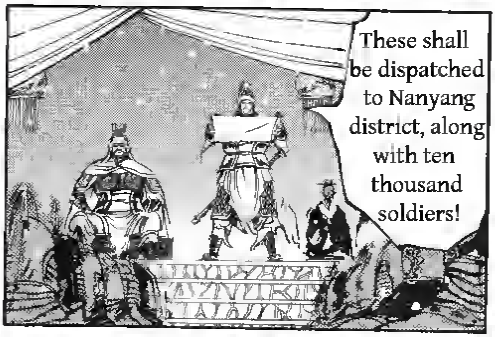

DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO
KAKAH
KAKAH
KAKAH
KAKAH
DADAH
ZASHI!


I, Yuan Shao, captain of the cavalry, while on my way here, leading my private army of nine thousand, have defeated twenty thousand Yellow Turbans in Chenliu and have only arrived now!
Commander-in-chief! First, I would like to apologize for my delay!

I have been waiting for you!


He said he had a private army of nine thousand, right?
ZAWA ZAWA
So that's Yuan Shao?

Aye!
Yuan Shao! You shall now sit next to me as my advisor in this council!
We shall now begin the war council deciding where each general shall be going.
ZAH! ZAH!
GAGAH!
Everyone else should stay there until the war council is over!


These shall be dispatched to Nanyang district, along with ten thousand soldiers!

As such, you have four days to prepare and are to sortie to your respective fronts!
We look forward to your deeds of arms, gentlemen!

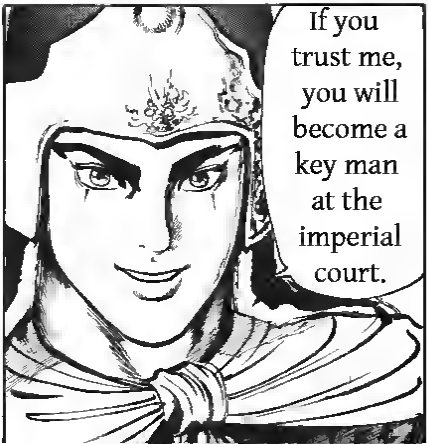
ZAH!
ZAH!
ZAH!
ZAH!
ZAH!
My, you have been most able to appoint talented men, commander-in-chief! Now the soldiers' morale will certainly rise!
Huh?
Hey, Yuan Shao!

Might as well talk to him without taking our positions into account.
My fighting style is ...
Why did you avoid the fierce battle area at the Yingchuan by making a detour and attacking Chenliu?
I don't want to waste my precious soldiers on a flock of peasants.
... that I should first gain strength before taking on that spot.
What could he be aiming for?
That strength being the Han Empire, right?
As such, your war merit over there will also be my own achievement.
Knowing your true strength, I decided to send you to this most fierce area, the Yingchuan.

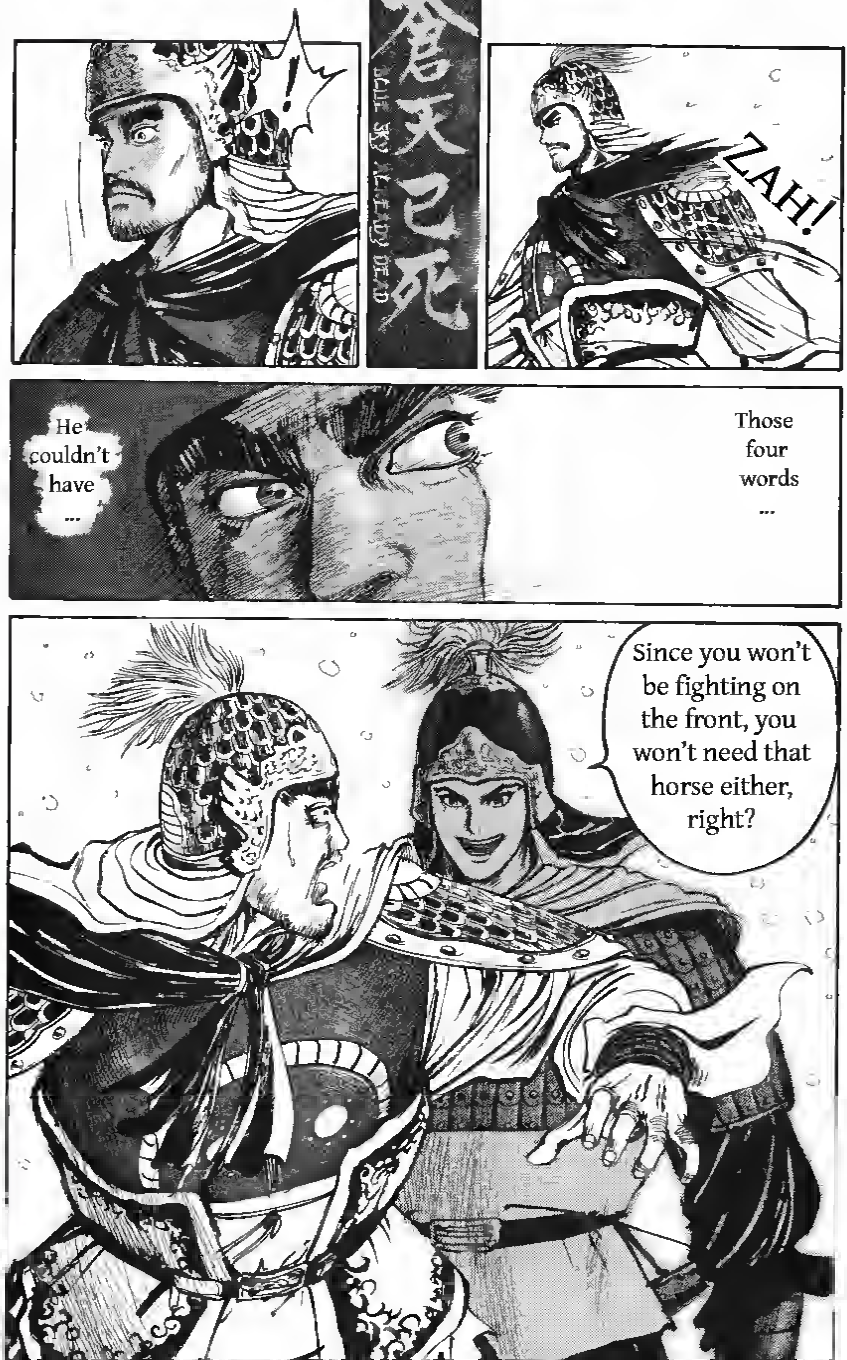
I want him to reserve an appropriate amount of money for the military deeds of me and my men!
If that's the case, I want you, Yuan Shao, to tell commander-in-chief He Jin to open the national treasury!
One hundred old friends of mine, although they can't be called soldiers.
How many soldiers did you bring here?
That's quite some confidence.
... that I would lead two thousand additional soldiers.
Although you did say earlier ...
One hundred!?

And, even worse, the core of your army is supposed to be a bunch of volunteers who've only just taken their lances and haven't even fought until yesterday?
Do you actually expect to rely only on the mere two thousand soldiers we gave you?
Even I and my well-trained soldiers had a hard time against their fanaticism!
Don't take this battle lightly! Peasants though they may be, these Yellow Turbans are not to be underestimated!
Meng de
What are your intentions?
Alright!
Just you wait, Mengde!
I'll recommend that three thousand men be sent from the government army to you!

And by destroying all of my enemies, I shall be able to overcome even the strong!
I started my fight ever since I was weak.


If you trust me, you will become a key man at the imperial court.

Does he intend to defeat the Han Empire!?
The strong!?
ZAH!
I'm counting on you in the matter of the national treasury, Yuan Shao.
ZAH!
ZAH!

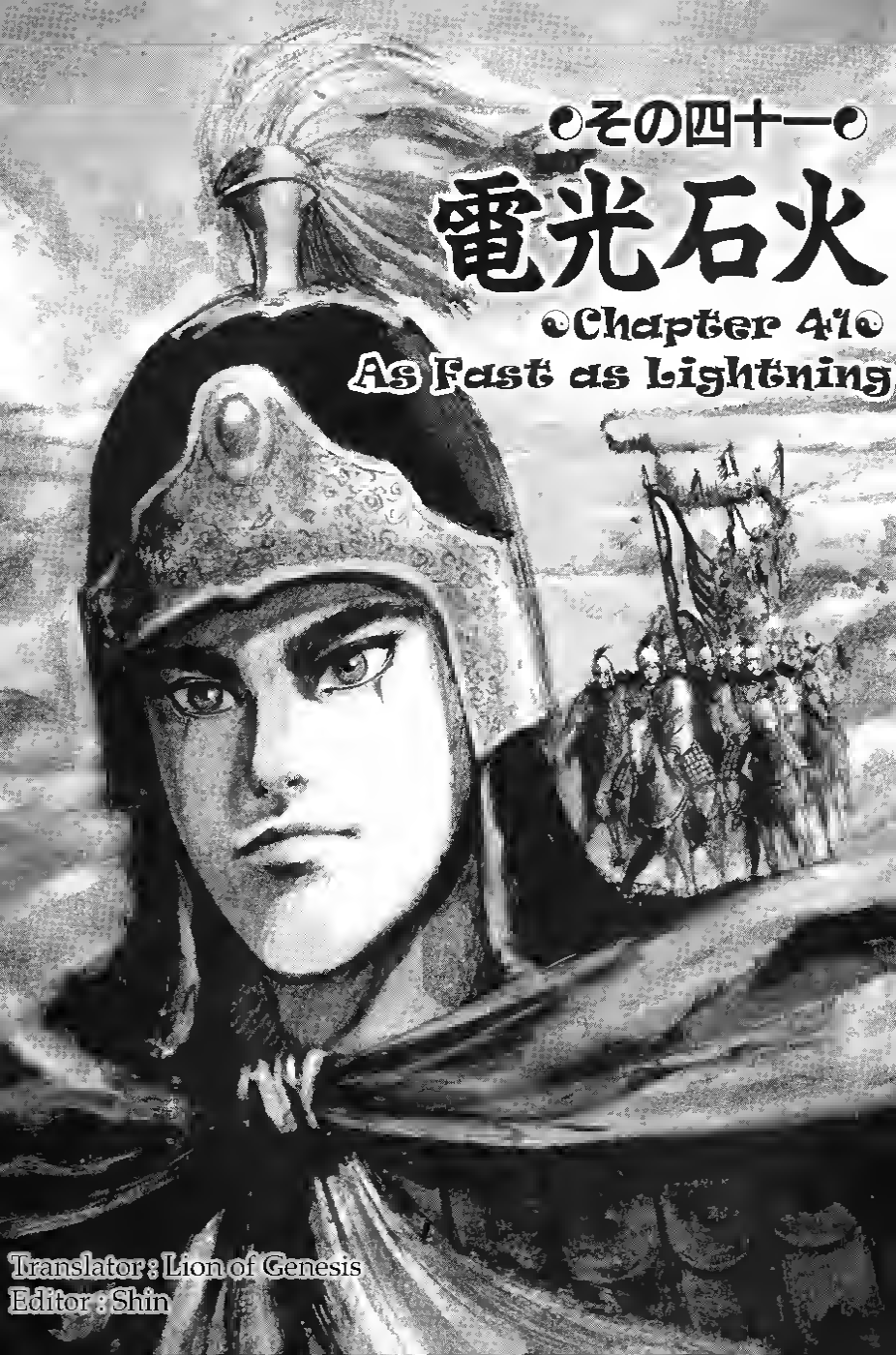

!
蒼天已死
ALL SKY ALREADY DEAD
ZAH!
He couldn't have ...
Those four words ...
Since you won't be fighting on the front, you won't need that horse either, right?

OOOOOOH!

Those of my army with military deeds ...
... shall receive twice the money other armies would!
BIH!

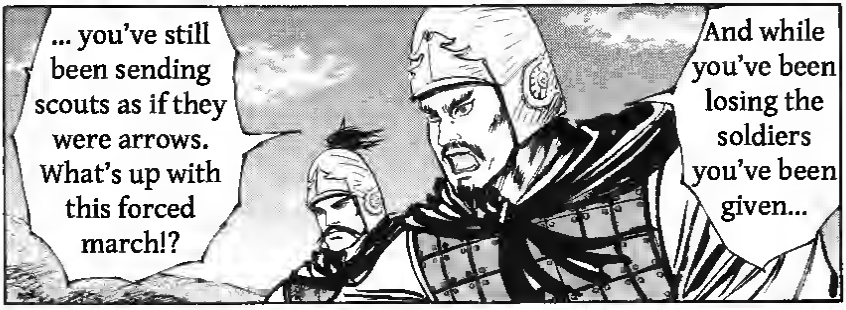
March!
GAH!

その四十 ただ今参上!! おわり

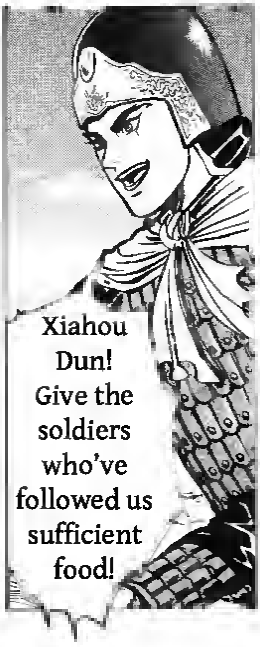

その四十一
電光石火
Chapter 41
As Fast as Lightning
Translator : Lion of Genesis
Editor : Shin

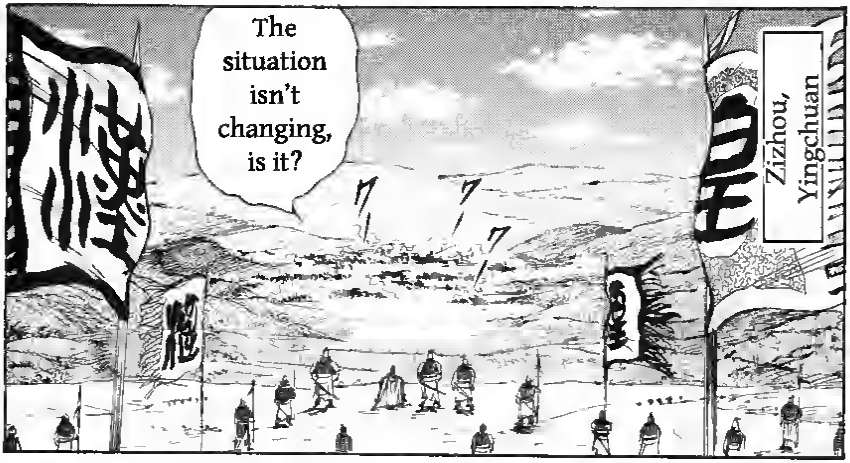
Tell them to go on for a few more days so that they may reunite with the other troops.
Sir, we have lost approximately 100 men!
ドドドド…
SFX : DO DO DO DO
I want two scouts to switch to unburdened horses and go ahead!
SFX : DO GA GA
ドガガ
OOOOOOOOH!
SFX GA GA GA GA
ガガガガガガ

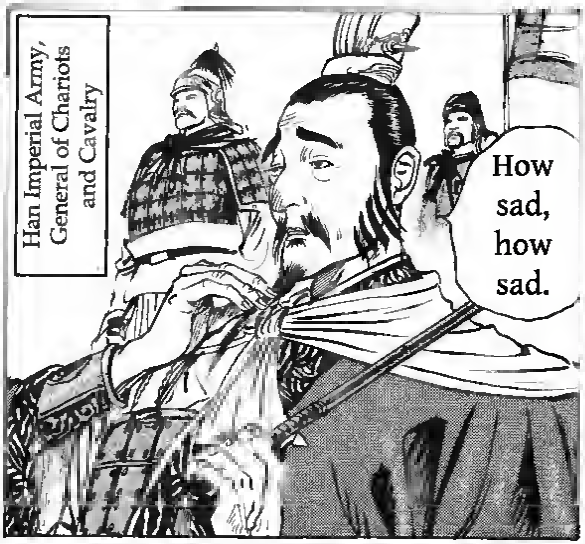
You didn't use those four days for training or military preparations.
Meng... No, captain of the cavalry, sir!


... you've still been sending scouts as if they were arrows. What's up with this forced march!?
And while you've been losing the soldiers you've been given...

SFX : DO DO DO DO DO
Prepare to make camp!


Xiahou Dun! Give the soldiers who've followed us sufficient food!

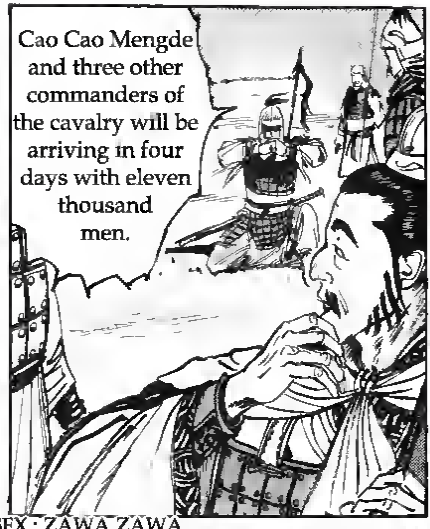




SFX :DOGAGAGA

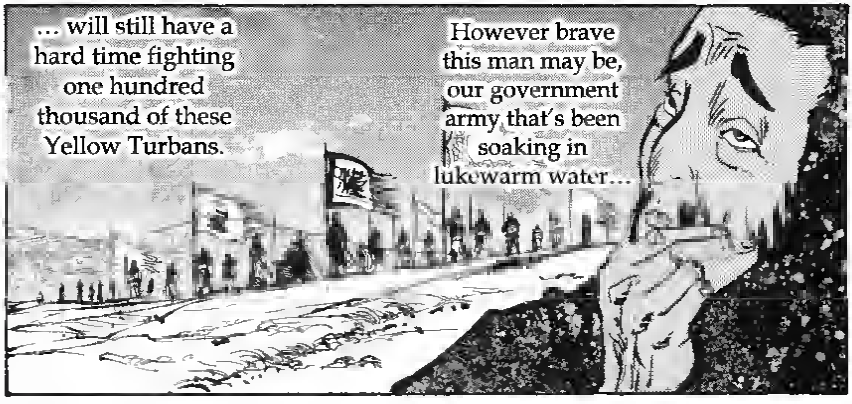
*Translator's note the term used is "General of the Gentlemen of the Household".

SFX : Ooooh...

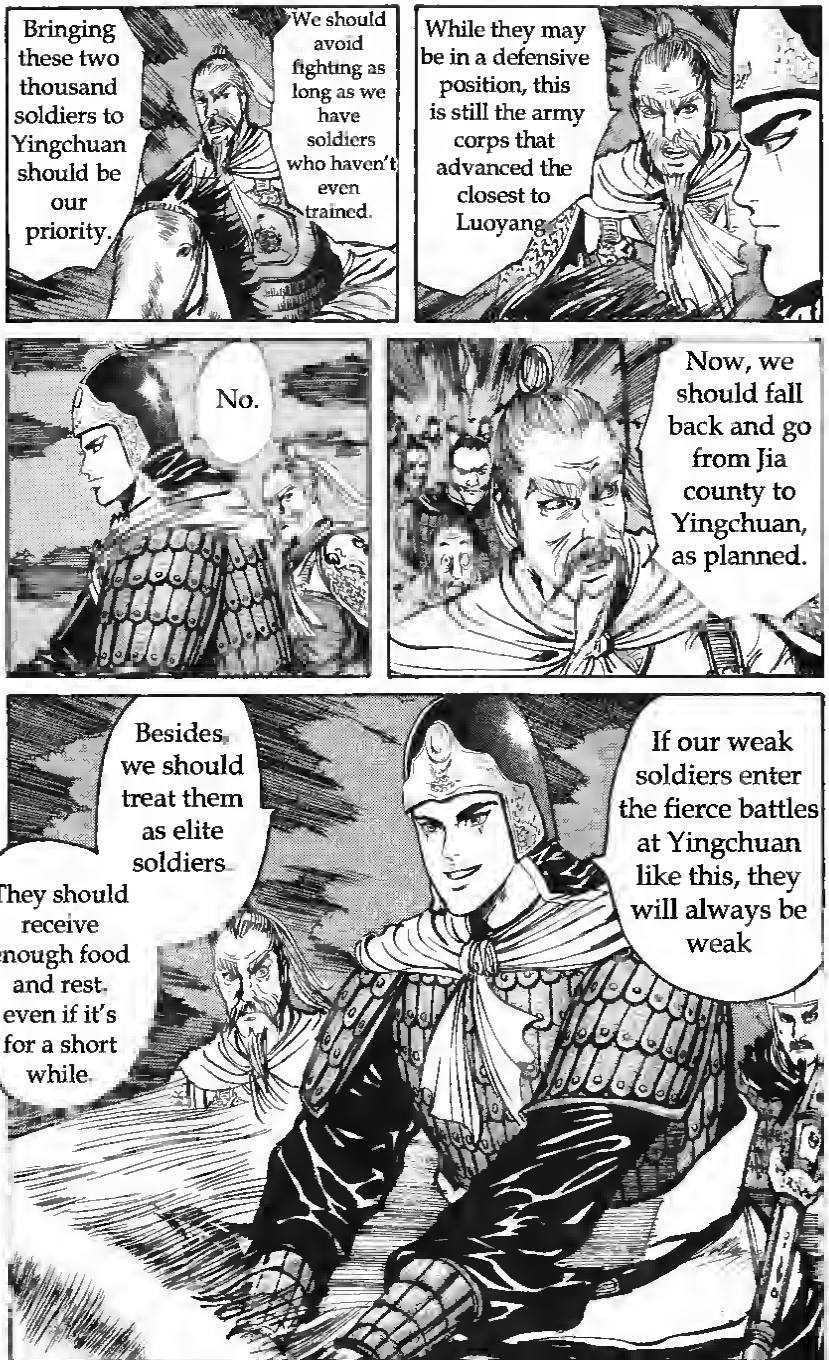


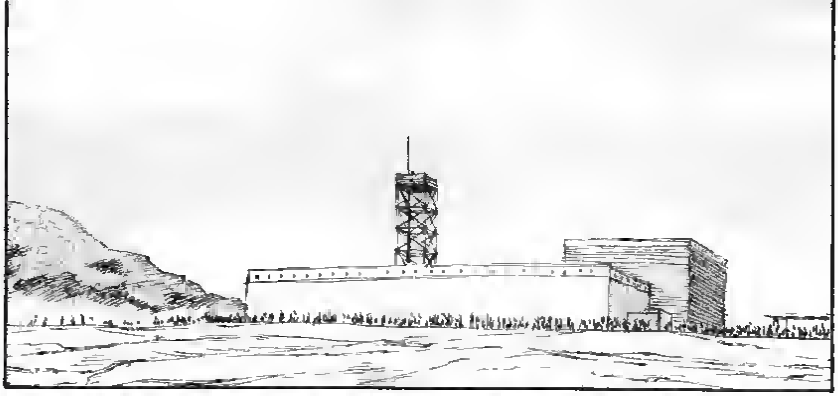
*Buwei: the position Cao Cao had some time ago.

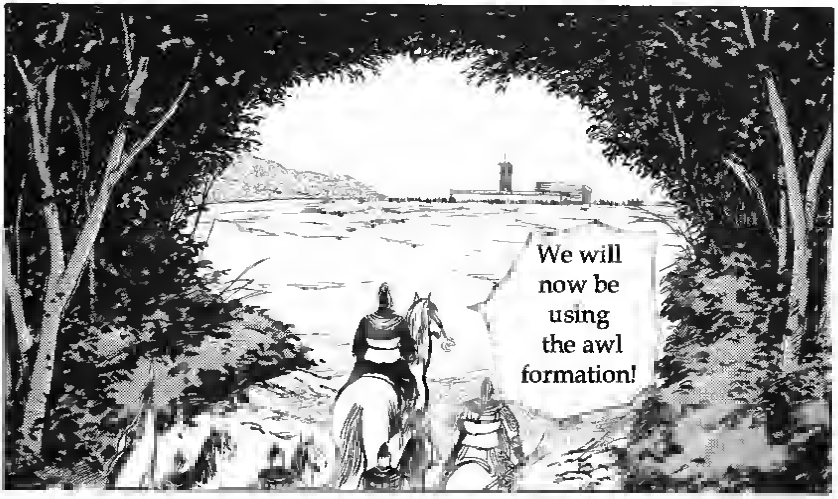
SFX : ZAWA ZAWA

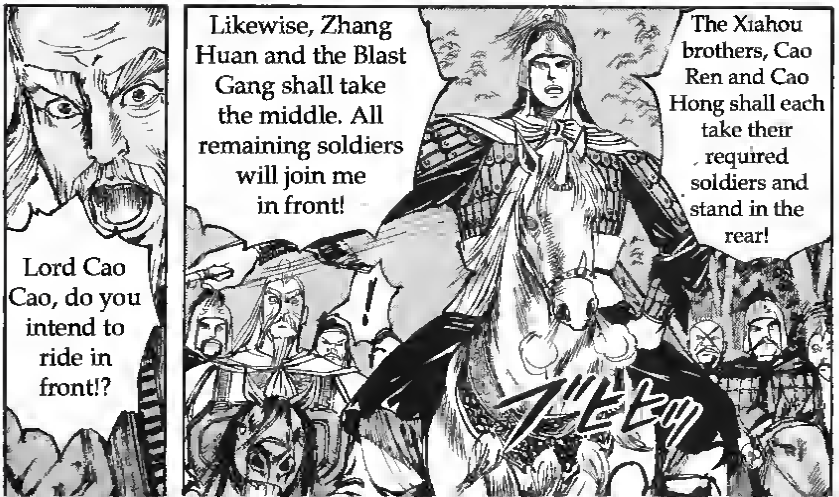

... will still have a hard time fighting one hundred thousand of these Yellow Turbans.
However brave this man may be, our government army that's been soaking in lukewarm water...

We have spotted the enemy!
SFX : DOGAGA
The Yellow Turbans have built a fortress at the forest's exit!
SFX : GAH! GAH!
Please wait!
SFX : GAGAH!
So that's it.

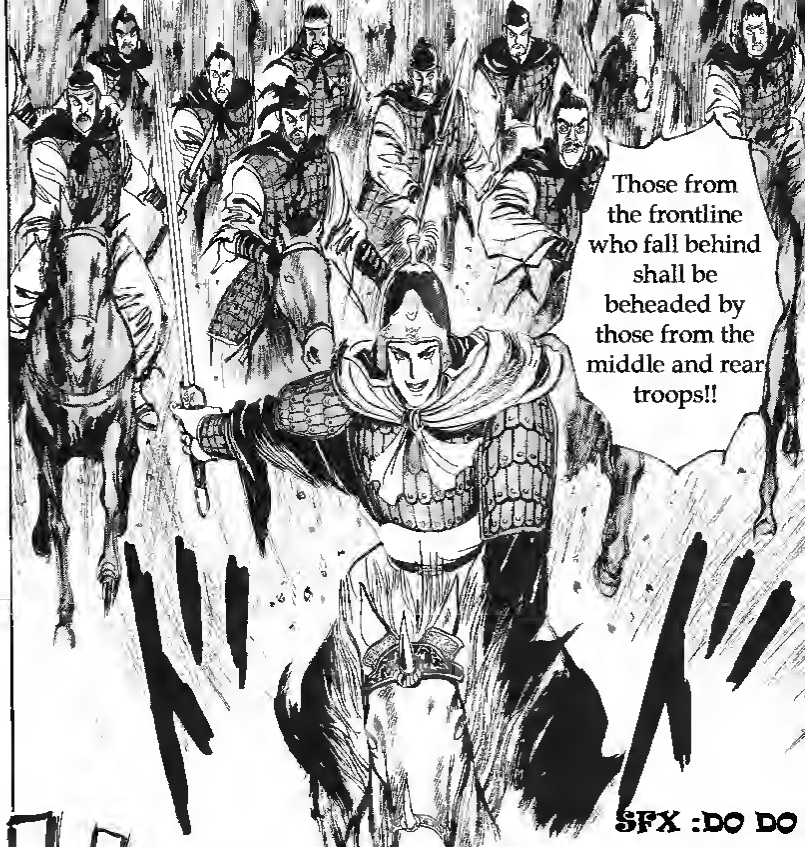

Bringing these two thousand soldiers to Yingchuan should be our priority.
We should avoid fighting as long as we have soldiers who haven't even trained.
While they may be in a defensive position, this is still the army corps that advanced the closest to Luoyang.
No.
Now, we should fall back and go from Jia county to Yingchuan, as planned.
Besides, we should treat them as elite soldiers.
They should receive enough food and rest, even if it's for a short while.
If our weak soldiers enter the fierce battles at Yingchuan like this, they will always be weak



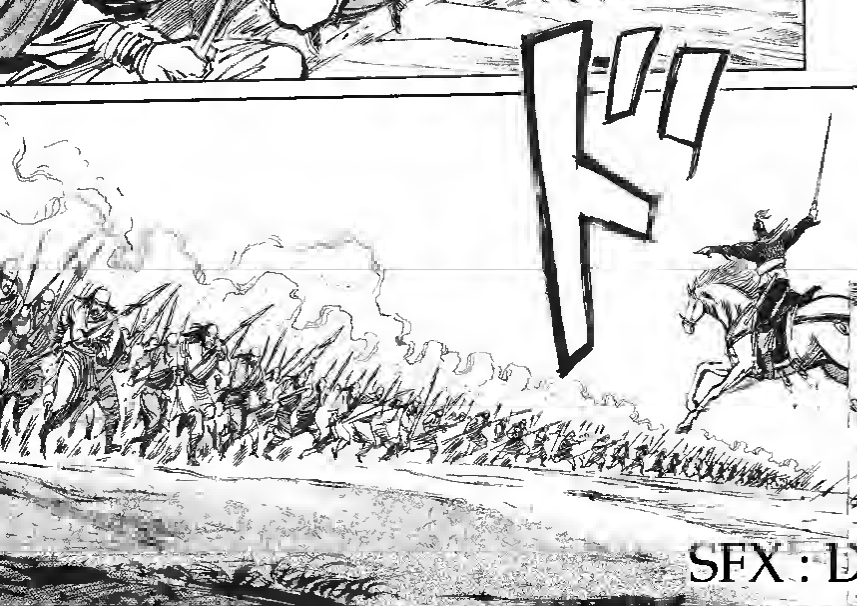

We will now be using the awl formation!


Lord Cao Cao, do you intend to ride in front!?
Likewise, Zhang Huan and the Blast Gang shall take the middle. All remaining soldiers will join me in front!
The Xiahou brothers, Cao Ren and Cao Hong shall each take their required soldiers and stand in the rear!
!
ブヒヒヒ

Our target is the fortress's provision warehouse!
All troops, pay attention!
Follow me!
SFX: GAGAH!
The enemy's here!
SFX: DODODO
!



SFX :DO DO

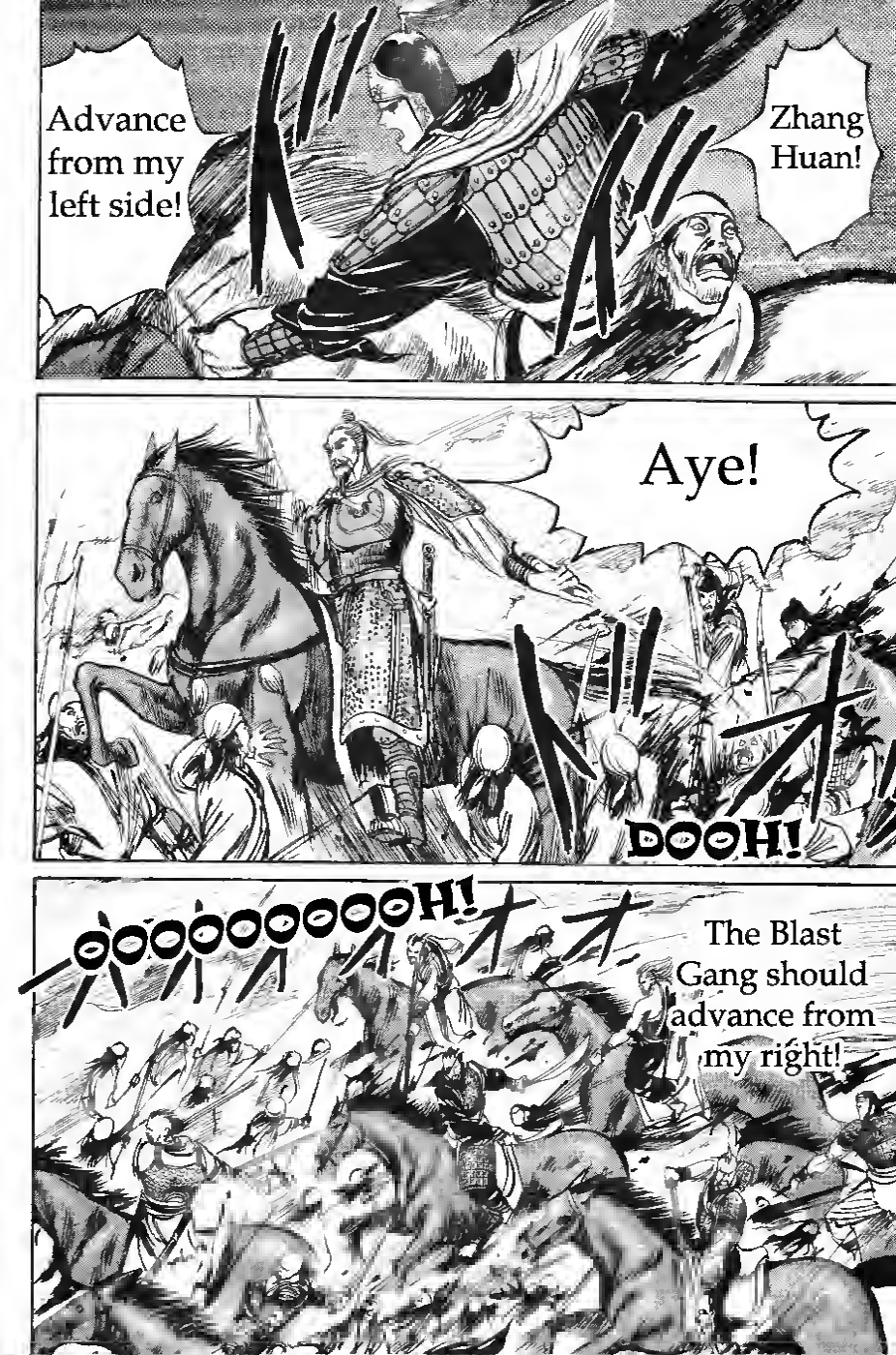


SFX : DO-DO

SFX : DOH!

SFX : DODODO

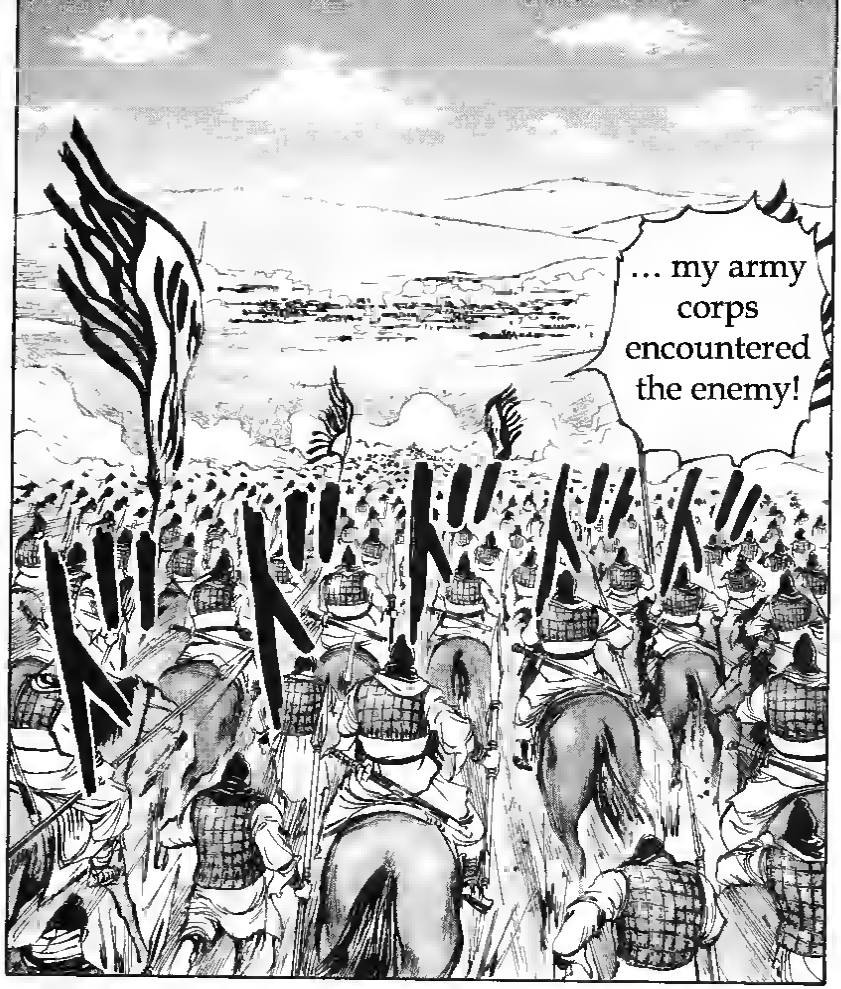
This isn't just a fanatic army!
This ...
Five... No, they are coming in groups of three!
This is the movement of soldiers who have been trained to kill.
If I make a wrong move, I could end up losing half of my army.
In a one-on-one battle, this strategy should be effective.
However, what would happen if we were to attack them as a formation!?


Advance from my left side!
Zhang Huan!
Aye!
DOOH!
OOOOOOOOOH!
The Blast Gang should advance from my right!

The four corps from the rear should come forward as well!
And after that!
Now, let's go!
Great Gen-eral!
Lord Cao Cao!
SFX :
WAH
WAH
WAH
WAH
WAH
WAH

Already? They're awfully fast, aren't they?
Sir! Our reinforcements have arrived!
Ying-chuan
SFX DO GA GA...
Ah!
This is good news, I'm sure!
They're gone!
.....
So that's it!
T-There's just five hundred of them!
Ah! They're here! It's the main army!
SFX : DO DO DO DO

Lord Huang-fu Song!
SFX : DODODODO
*Translator's note: 1 li = 2.44 miles.
Oh?
We assaulted the enemy fortress 40 li* from here!
The first group of the Cao Cao corps has arrived!
And, in the mean-time...
I sent several soldiers to hurry there and secure the base!
SFX. DO DO


... my army corps encountered the enemy!

Oo oh
Ooh ...
その四十一 電光石火 おわり

Translated and edited by Lion of Genesis

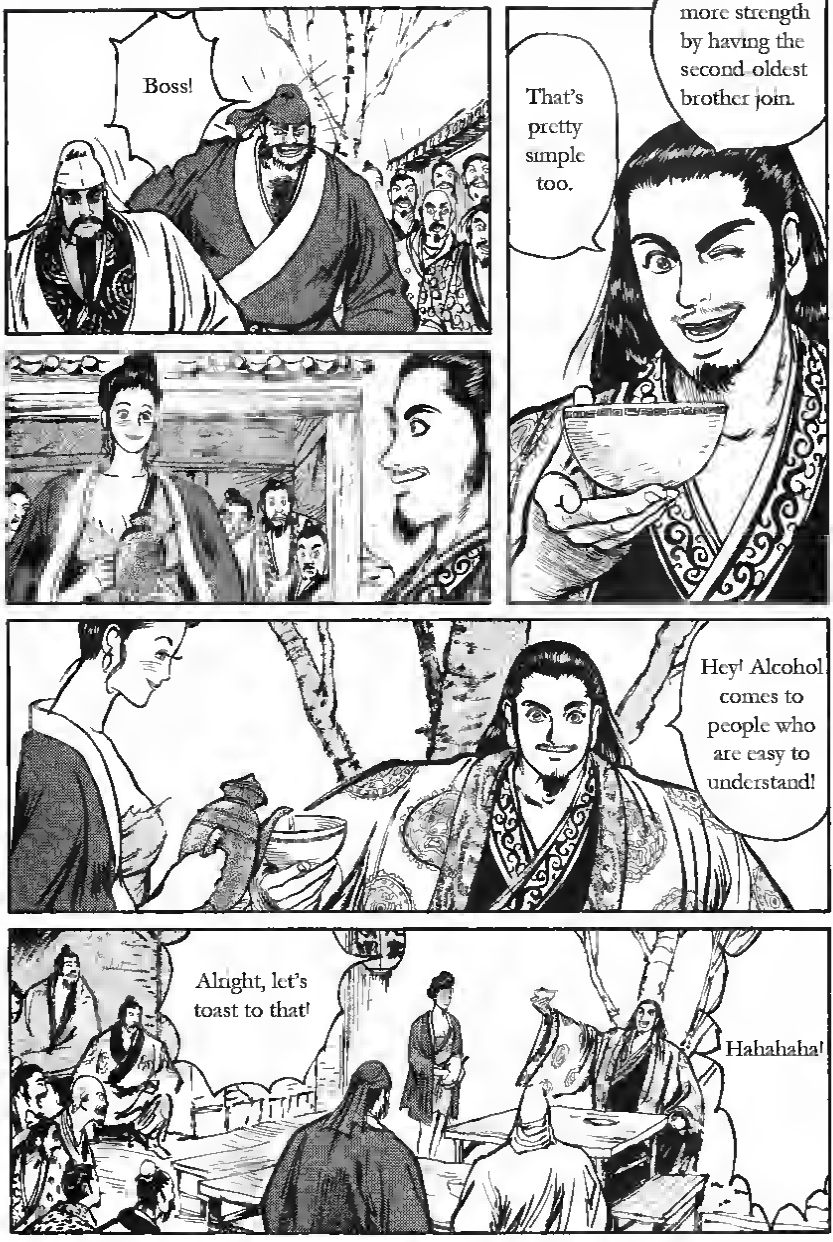
ヒャーハハハ
Hyahahahaha!
黄天
ガガガ…

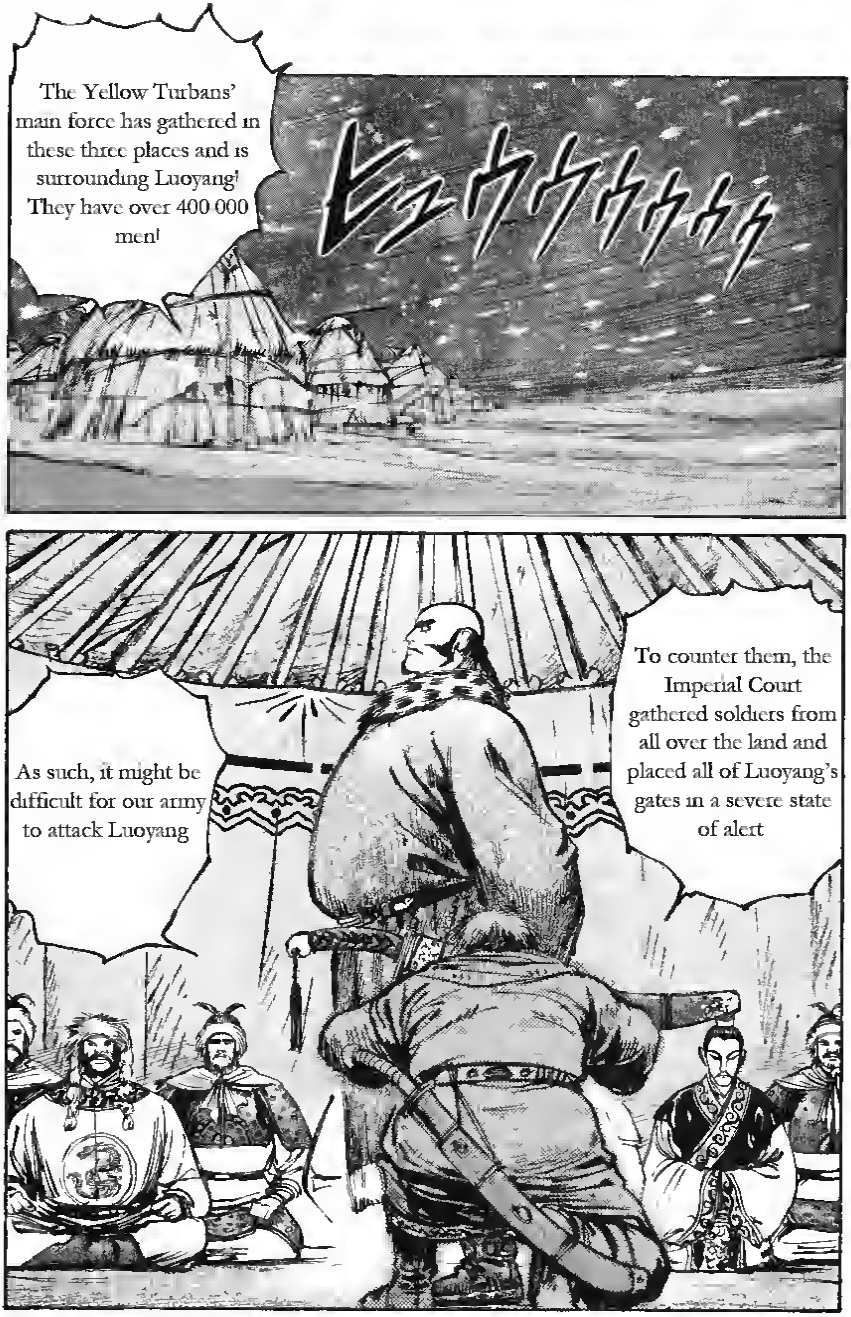
We'll give ya paradise, we will!
Come on, the Yellow Turbans wanna hug ya! Show yer thanks by spreadin' them legs for us!

You bastards are a disgrace to the xia.
Zhang Fei! Those fellows are just rebels who call themselves Yellow Turbans.
くるん
Big Brother.
くるん
If they were the real Yellow Turbans, they would have been taking over the capital or would at least have been fighting against the government army.
ぐびっ

On the other hand, the ones asking for help against the Yellow Turbans are the officials and the great landlords
The peasants we've been protecting and the fellow xia who used to work with us are now Yellow Turbans
WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO!?
It's not that hard to understand why everyone joined the Yellow Turbans.
ぐびっ

I'm going to volunteer for the government army.
Volunteer!?
Wh-...
What!?
... is when I am to rebuild the land. Not hard to understand, is it?
Since I am distantly related to the Han Dynasty by blood, the moment I go out in the world...


Boss!
We'll then add more strength by having the second oldest brother join.
That's pretty simple too.
Hey! Alcohol comes to people who are easy to understand!
Alright, let's toast to that!
Hahahaha!

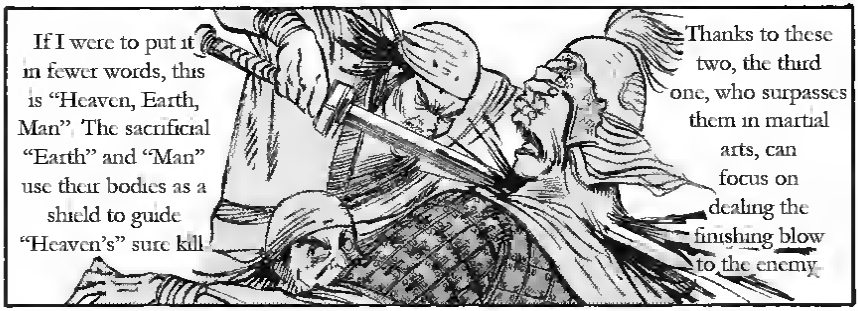

The Yellow Turbans' main force has gathered in these three places and is surrounding Luoyang! They have over 400 000 men!
ヒュウウウウ
As such, it might be difficult for our army to attack Luoyang
To counter them, the Imperial Court gathered soldiers from all over the land and placed all of Luoyang's gates in a severe state of alert

That way, we would lose our chance.
Besides, the Imperial Court will, sooner or later, appeal to your services in fighting the Yellow Turbans
If we were to bring our soldiers from the west side of Luoyang, it would not be too daunting a task to make use of the confusion in the capital!
No, Lord Dong Zhuo! In spite of the strict guard, the government army is completely dispersed!
Kill yourself.
Your advising me to profit from those confused field mice is beyond shameful and can only find retribution in death
Dong Zhuo is Dong Zhuo because he wins with Dong Zhuo's strength

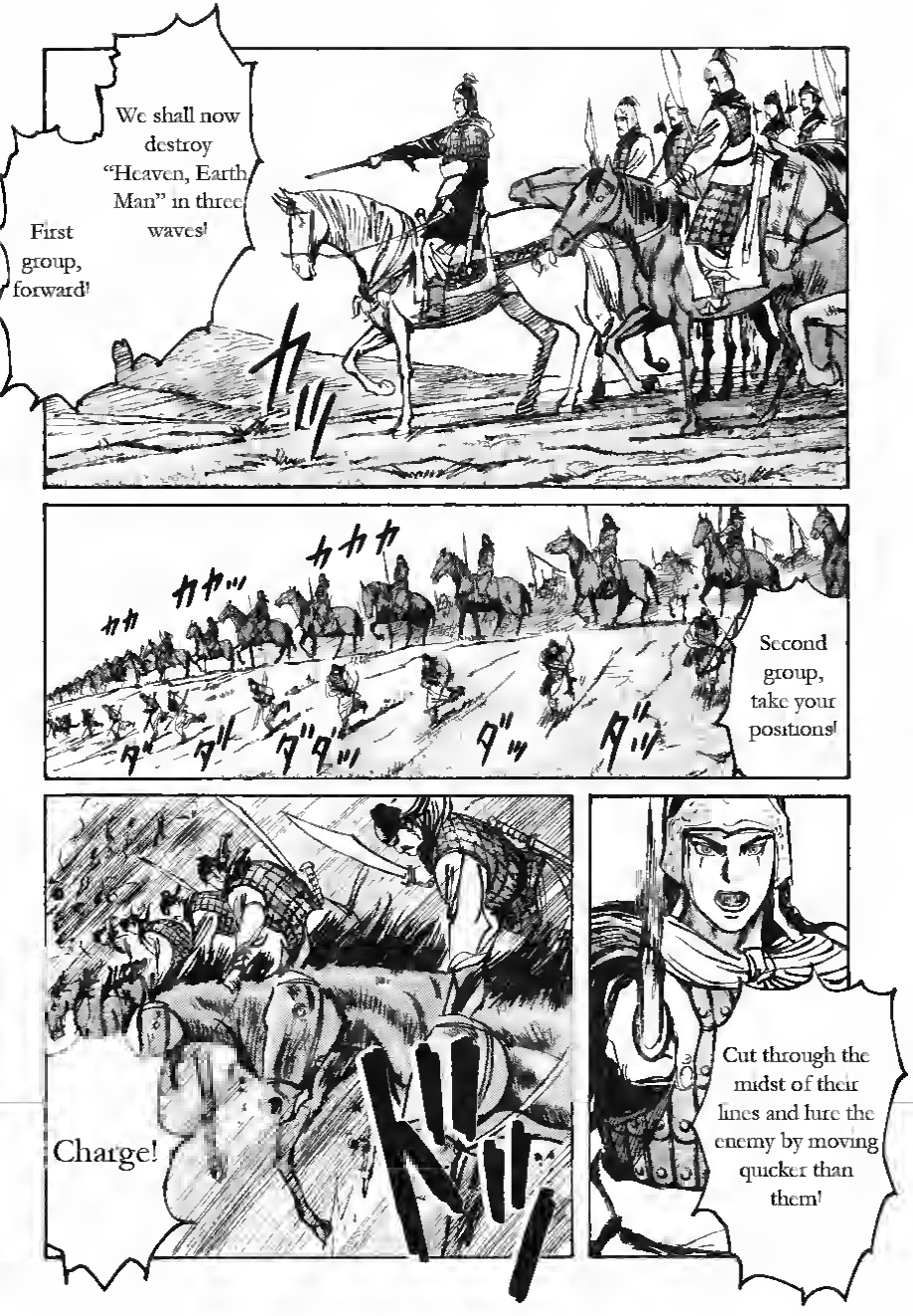
In other words, if you move your body hastily, you shall move your heart just as hastily
For few men to overcome superior numbers, speed is required
Yuzhou, Yingchuan Foremost line
Each of these three is well trained to fulfill his task to the best of his ability.
The enemy comes in groups of three

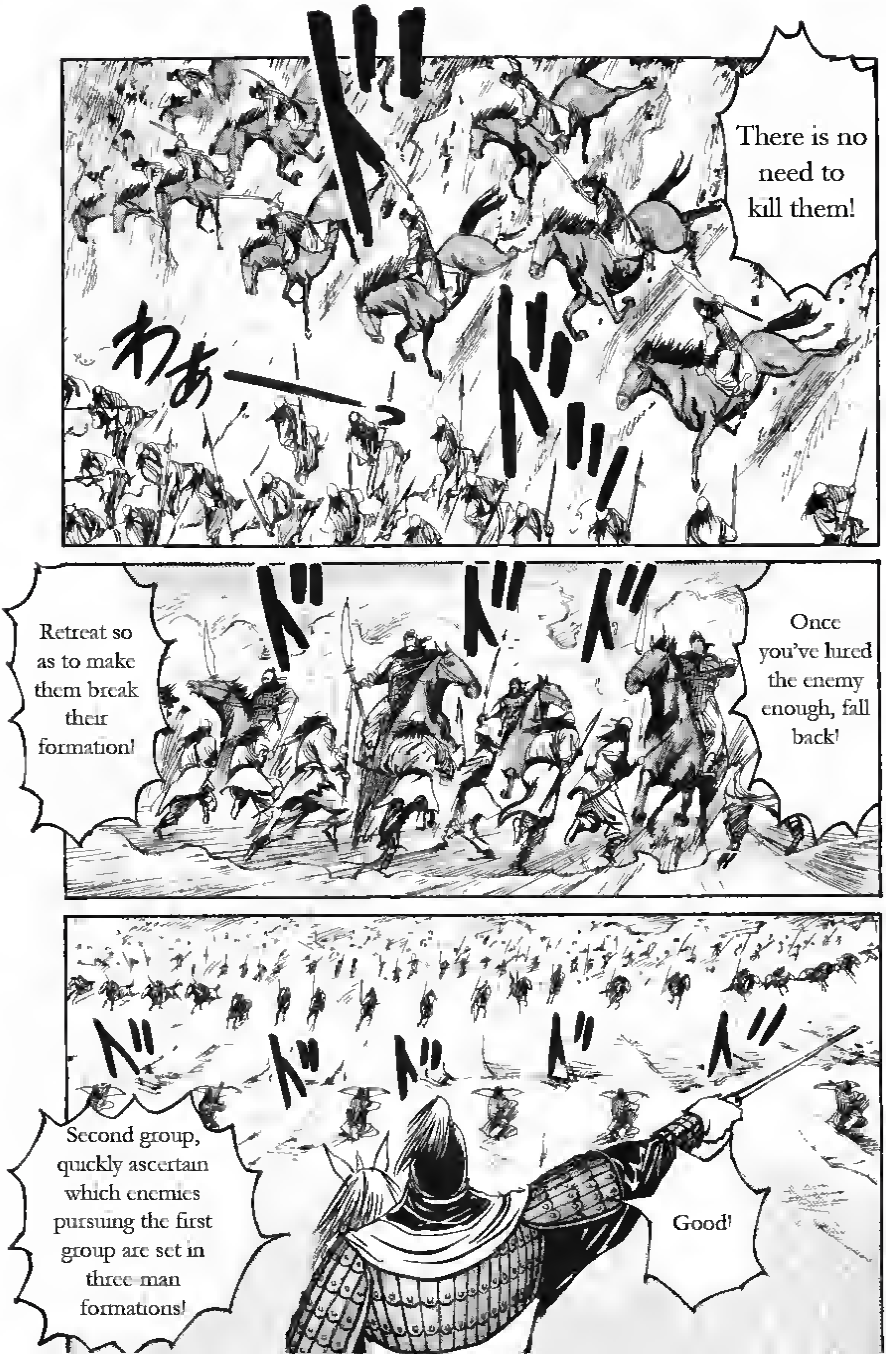
The next one controls the enemy's movement.
First, one of them takes the enemy's attack with his own body

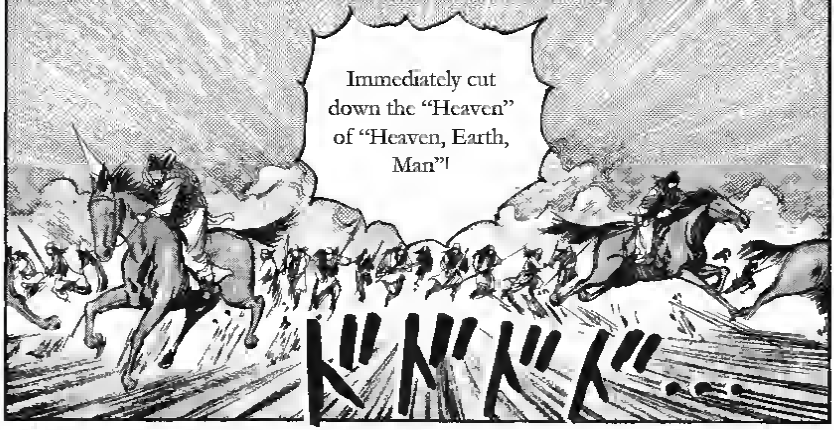
These two are probably believers with incredibly strong faith in the Way of Great Peace.

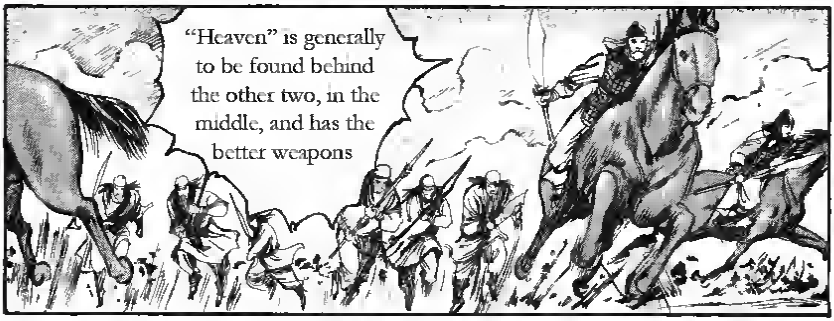

If I were to put it in fewer words, this is "Heaven, Earth, Man". The sacrificial "Earth" and "Man" use their bodies as a shield to guide "Heaven's" sure kill
Thanks to these two, the third one, who surpasses them in martial arts, can focus on dealing the finishing blow to the enemy

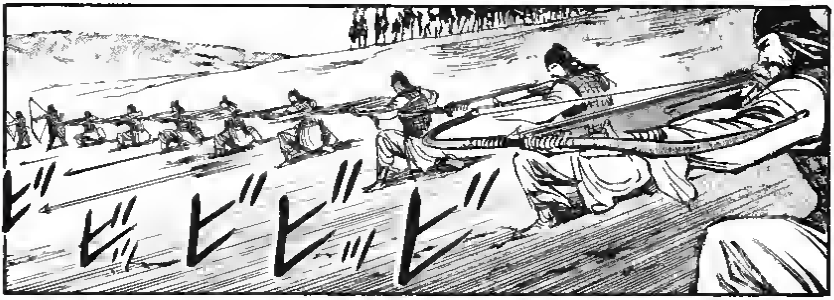
As such, nobody thought to see through their battle formation.
The government army had despised the Yellow Turbans, thinking them to be chaotic peasants


We shall now destroy "Heaven, Earth, Man" in three waves!
First group, forward!
Second group, take your positions!
Charge!
Cut through the midst of their lines and lure the enemy by moving quicker than them!

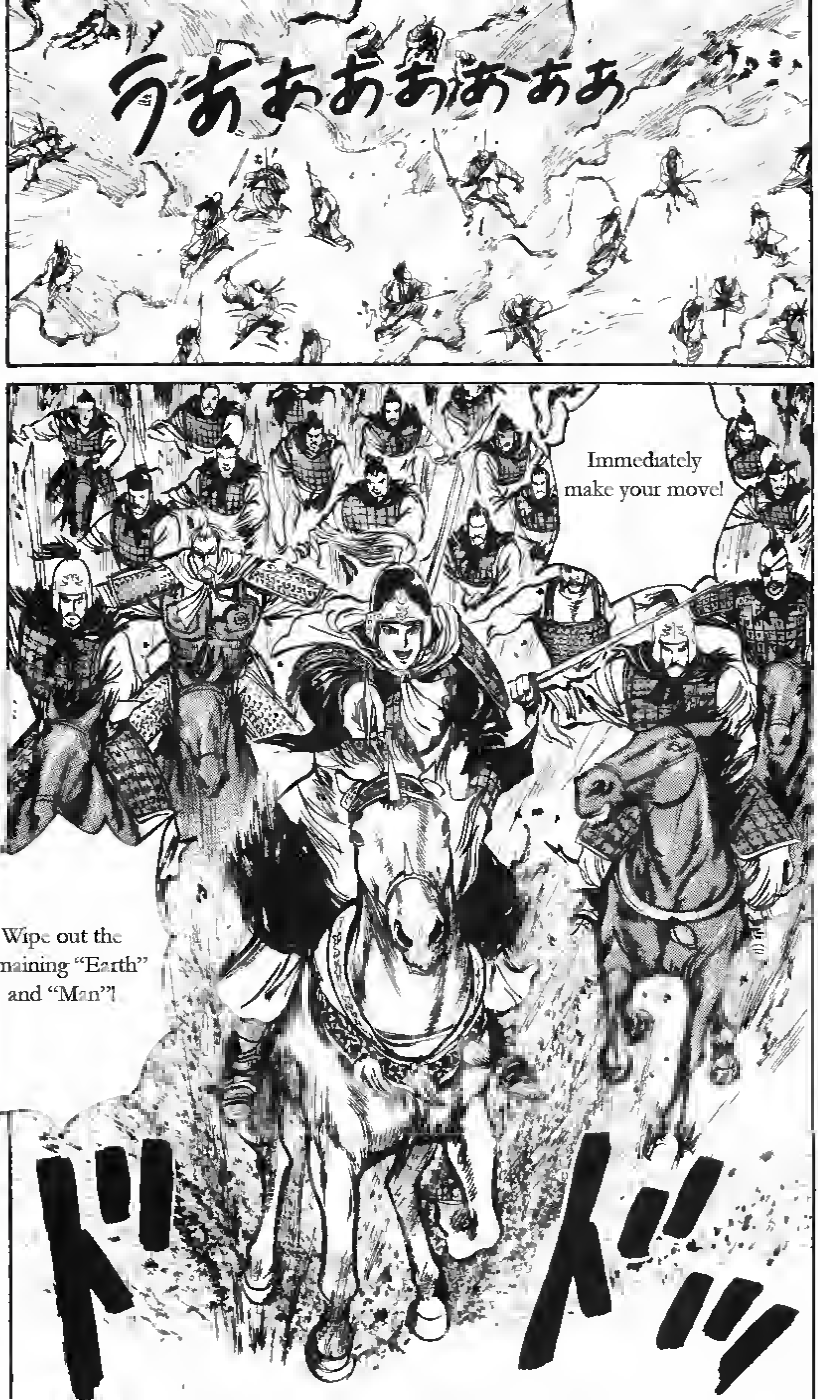

There is no need to kill them!
わあ
ドド
Retreat so as to make them break their formation!
Once you've lured the enemy enough, fall back!
ドド
Second group, quickly ascertain which enemies pursuing the first group are set in three man formations!
Good!
ドド


Immediately cut down the "Heaven" of "Heaven, Earth, Man"!
ドドドド

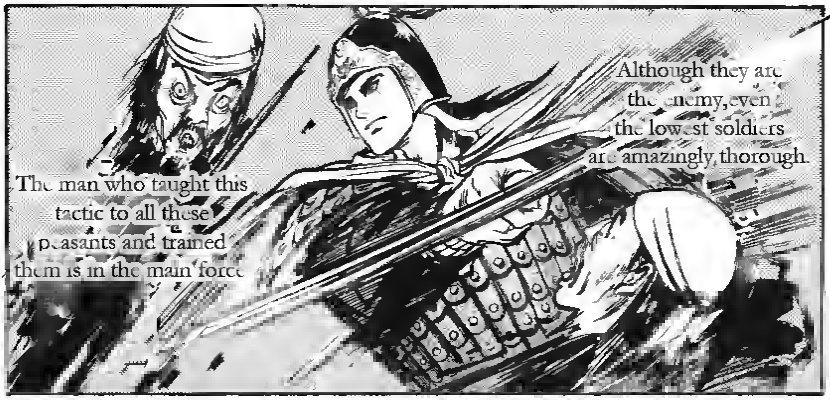

"Heaven" is generally to be found behind the other two, in the middle, and has the better weapons


ビヒヒヒ

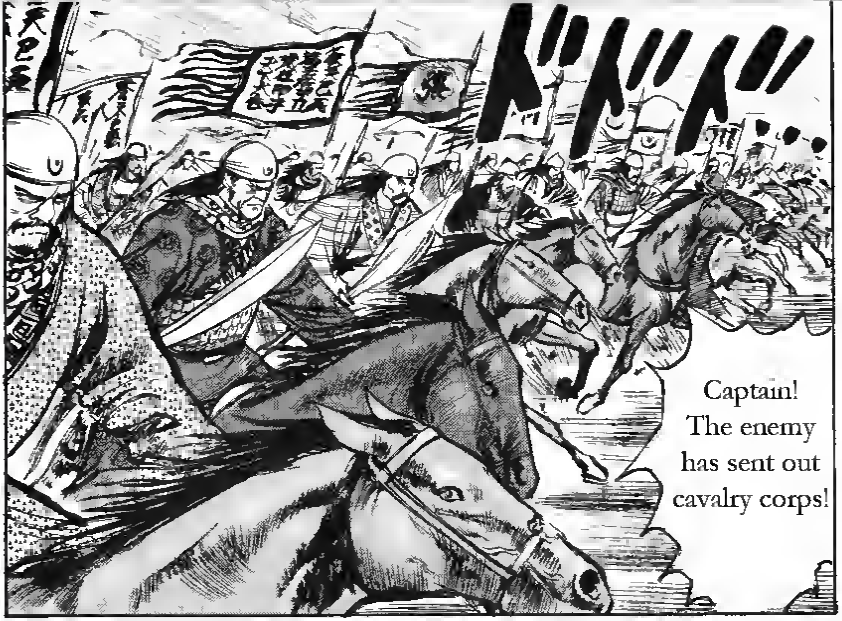
ド!
ド!
ド!
ド!


うおおおおおおお
Immediately make your move!
Wipe out the remaining "Earth" and "Man"!
ドドドドド

うおおおおお


Although they are the enemy, even the lowest soldiers are amazingly thorough.
The man who taught this tactic to all these peasants and trained them is in the main force

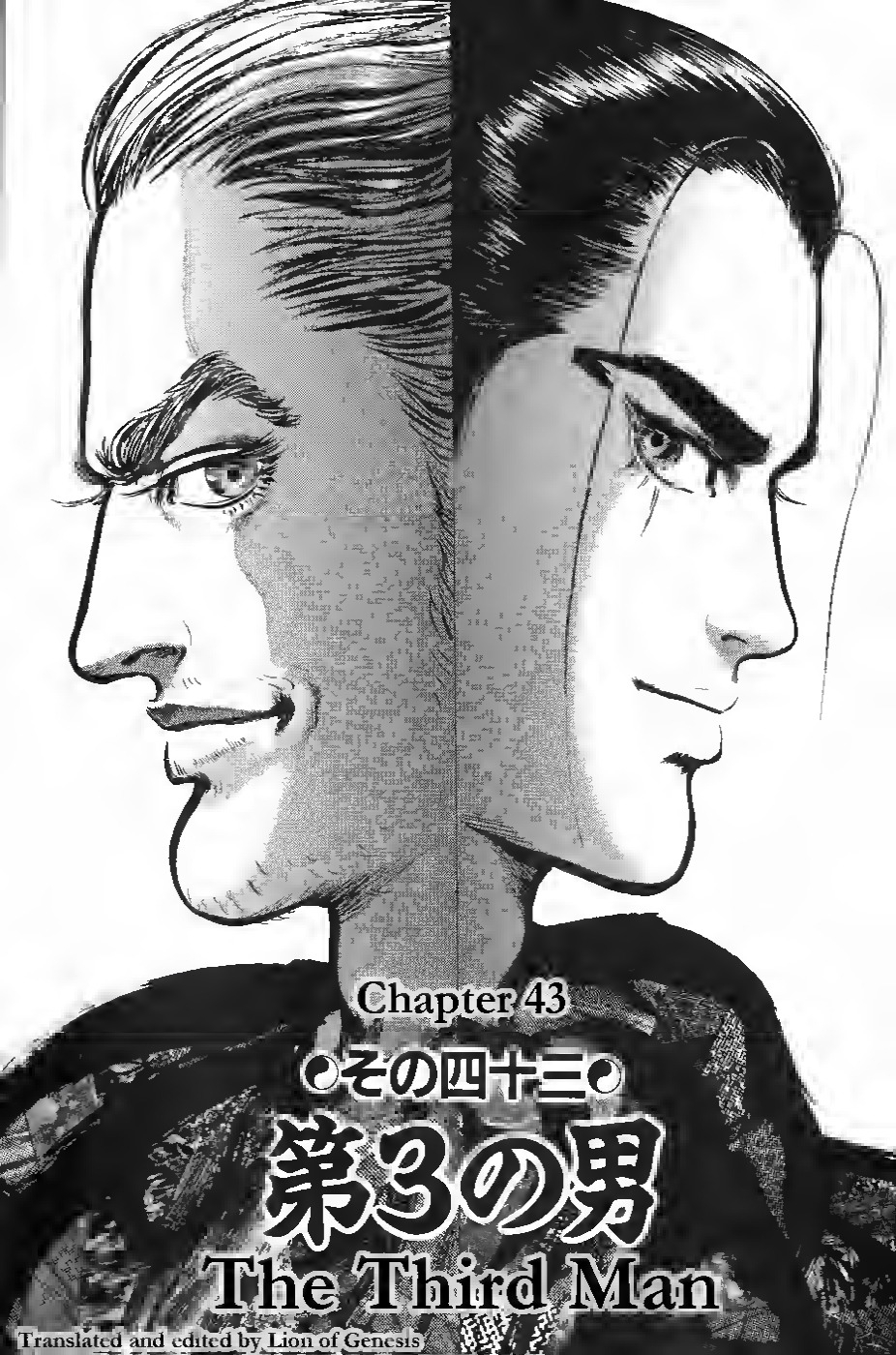
Which means...
Reinforcements!


ドドドド
Captain! The enemy has sent out cavalry corps!

It is likely...
...that the idea of "Heaven, Earth, Man" doesn't only apply to their infantry, but also to the entire Yellow Turban army.

They make use of it in their main force's formation as well as in placing their battlefields.
Which means,

That if I can see through their mentality in Yingchuan, I will instantly discover the position of the "Heaven" that must be defeated.
その四十二
天・地・人
おわり



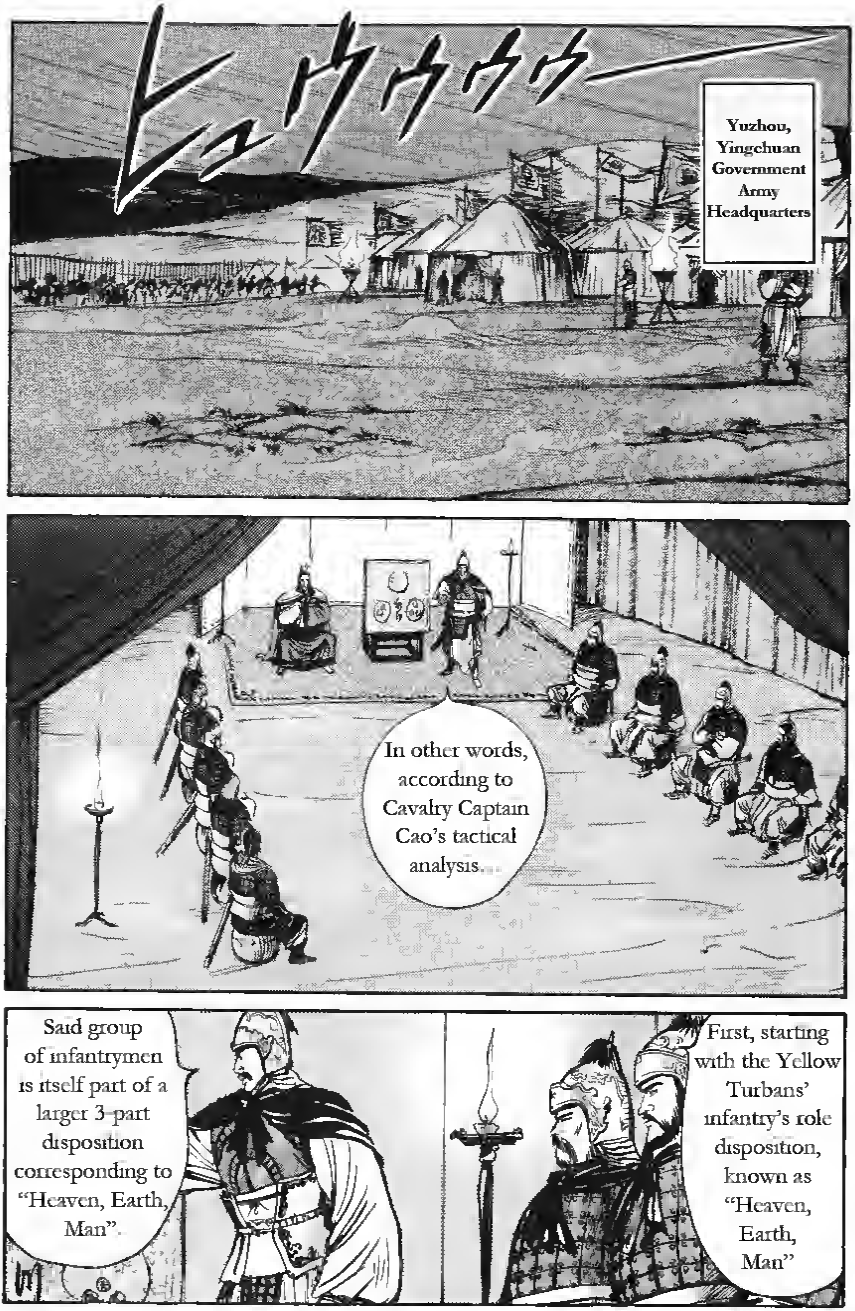
Chapter 43

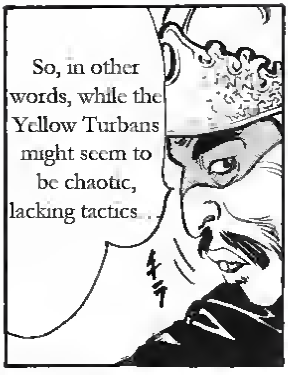
●その四十三●

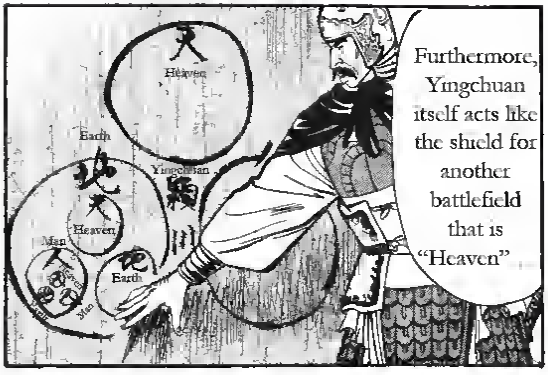
第3の男

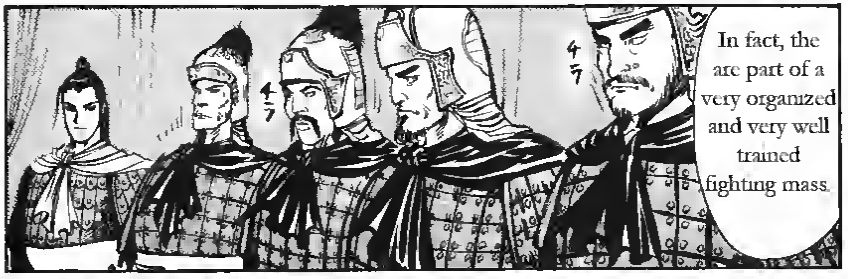
The Third Man

Translated and edited by Lion of Genesis

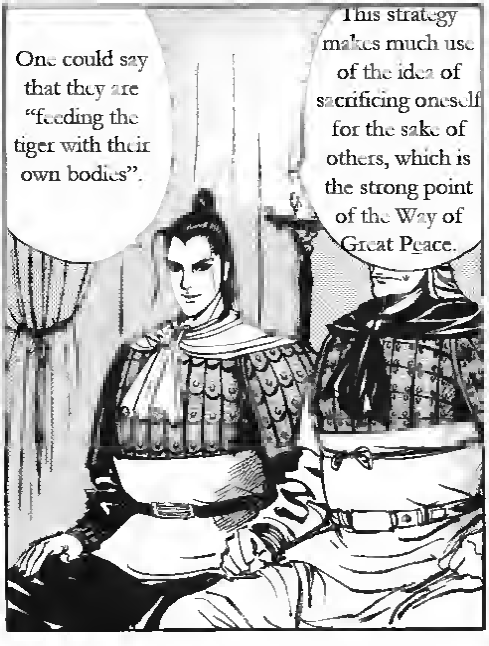

Yuzhou, Yingchuan Government Army Headquarters
In other words, according to Cavalry Captain Cao's tactical analysis...
Said group of infantrymen is itself part of a larger 3-part disposition corresponding to "Heaven, Earth, Man".
First, starting with the Yellow Turbans' infantry's role disposition, known as "Heaven, Earth, Man"


So, in other words, while the Yellow Turbans might seem to be chaotic, lacking tactics...


Heaven
Earth
Yingchuan
Heaven
Man
Earth
Furthermore, Yingchuan itself acts like the shield for another battlefield that is "Heaven"


In fact, the are part of a very organized and very well trained fighting mass.

Ah, I understand.


One could say that they are "feeding the tiger with their own bodies".
This strategy makes much use of the idea of sacrificing oneself for the sake of others, which is the strong point of the Way of Great Peace.

...And that is what you want to say?

My, he sure seems to have no qualms about talking like he was the general.
The tiger they are protecting being, in fact, the all-important battlefield where Lord of Heaven General Zhang Jue is.....
That aside, we should worry about our own strategy.
Those over there have left the job to General Huangfu Song
I have already given news of this to the Command Headquarters in Luoyang
Yes.
. . . . . .
...we should ask my strategist for further instructions.
As for the counter-strategy I devised...

You mean the child who sits next to Cao Cao?
Your strategist?
This can hardly be called a war council anymore, can it~?
Everyone seems to be relying on the man in the lowest position.
In that case...
...how should we react to this formation?
I see.
Since the men I lead are too weak, we would first have to accustom ourselves to warfare if we are to break their formation.

ドガ
黄天
太平道
大賢良師

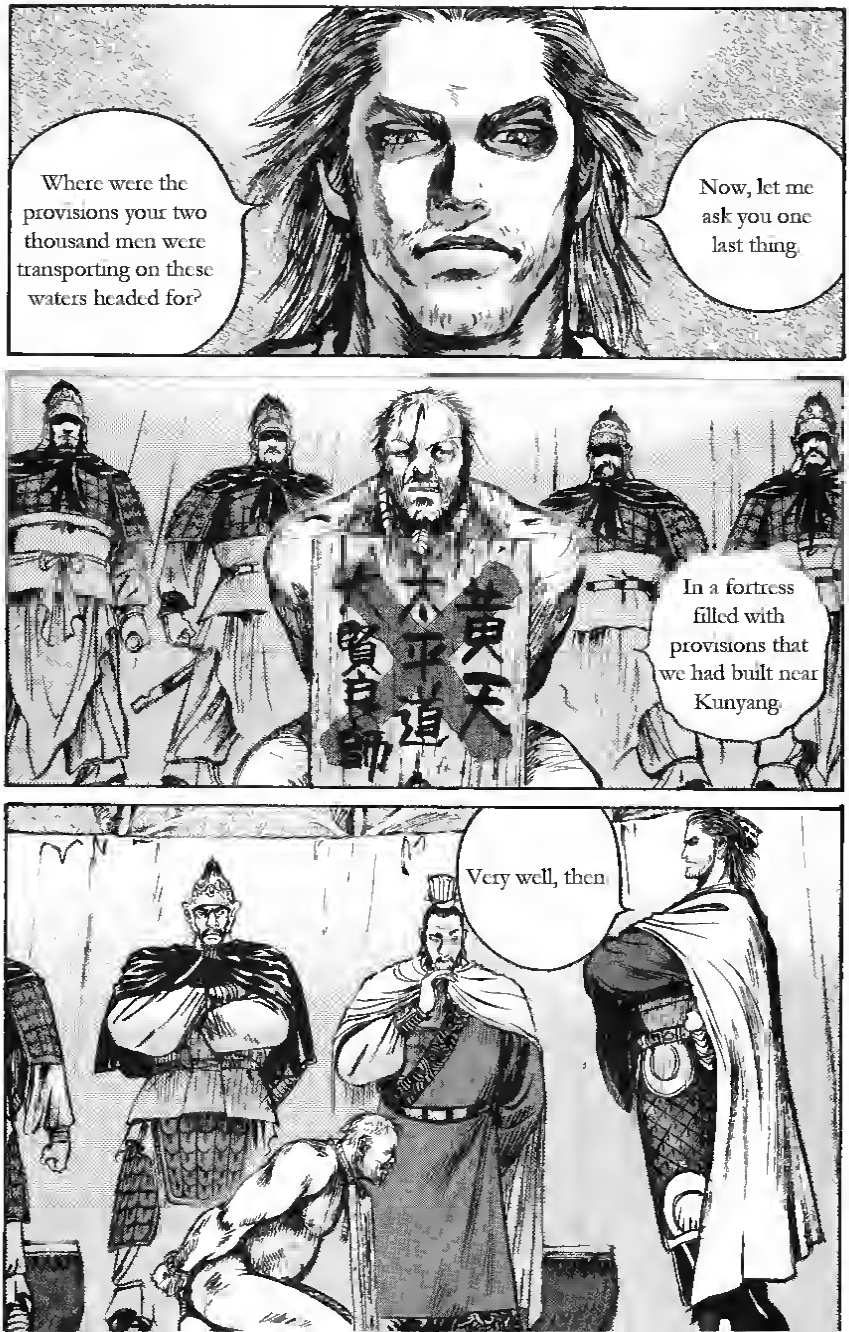
ガガガ

Who the hell are you?!
I am most sorry for coming in the middle of this war council.

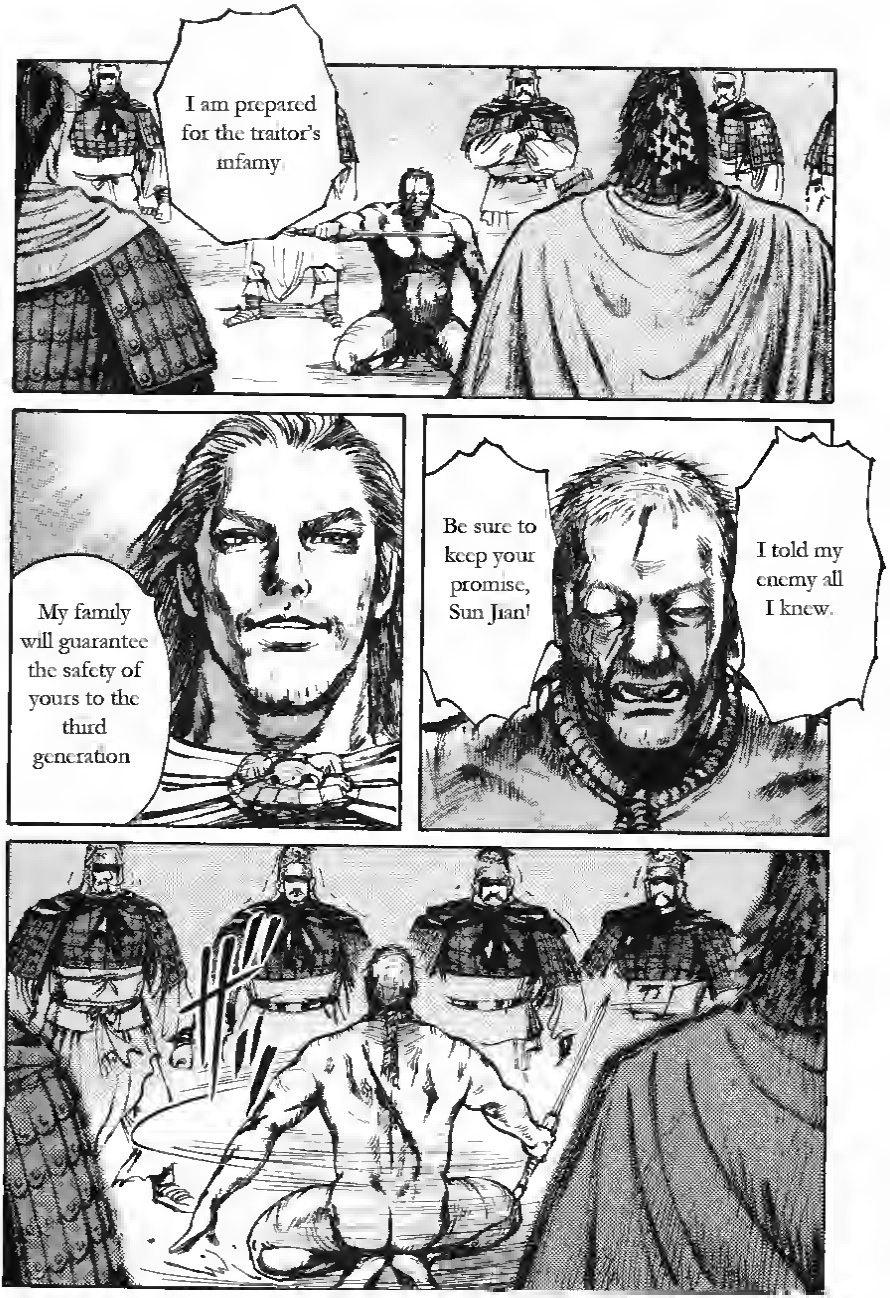
I have come with one thousand personal soldiers from Xuzhou's Xia Pi under orders from Lord Zhu Jun
I am the adjutant of Zhu Jun, General of the Gentleman of the Households. My name is Sun Jian, my style name is Wentai
This is the leader of the two thousand Yellow Turbans that we defeated on the way
After cornering the Yellow Turbans from Xuzhou into Runan and thereafter defeating them, we have come to this fierce battlefield, where such military exploits are much required

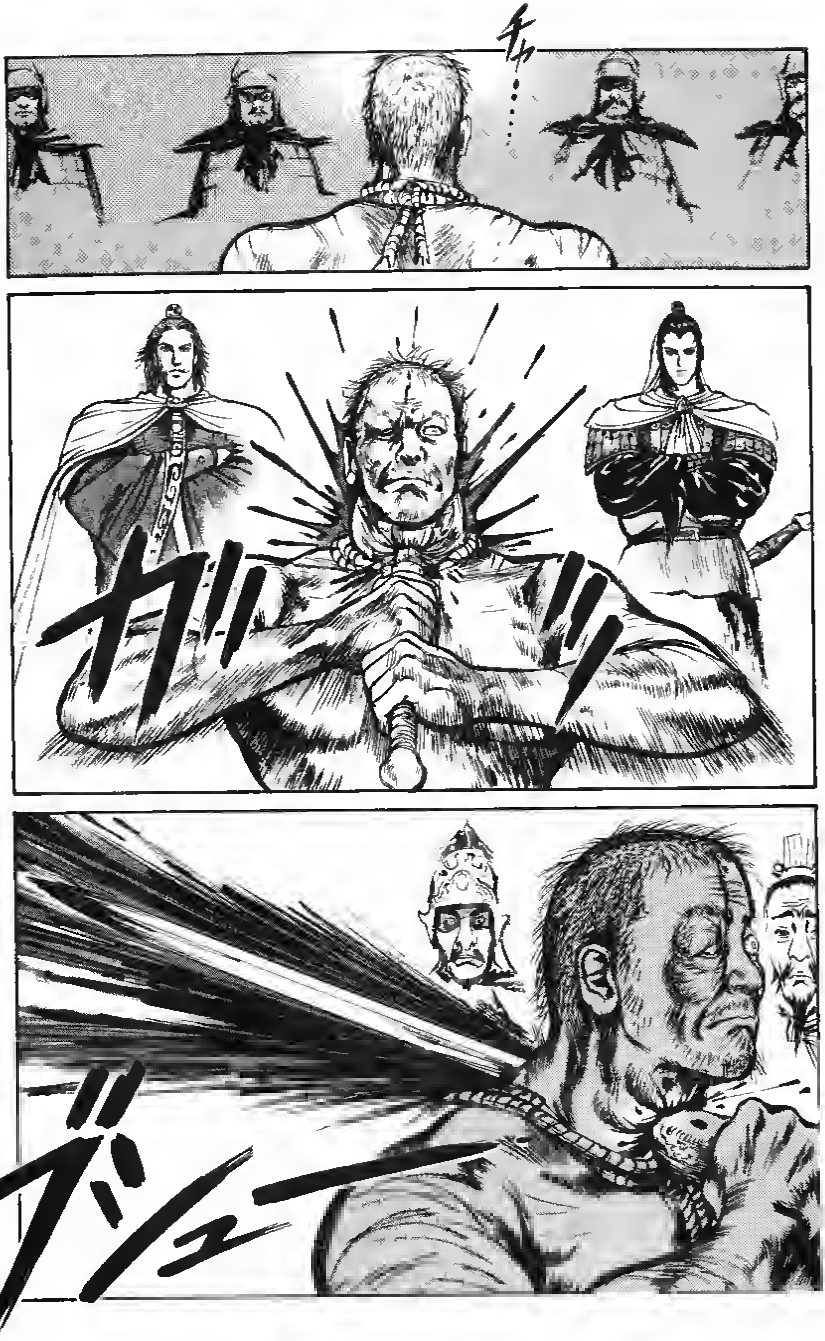
Dear me, another mighty flashy one he's come.
The famous Sun Jian who subjugated the southern pirates?
Sun Jian
I would like that my military exploits in these lands be rewarded not with positions, but with funds
I would want Lord Huangfu Song to listen to this one request of mine.
What!?
Are you trying to trade for your military feats!?
Why, you—
Now, now, wait a moment

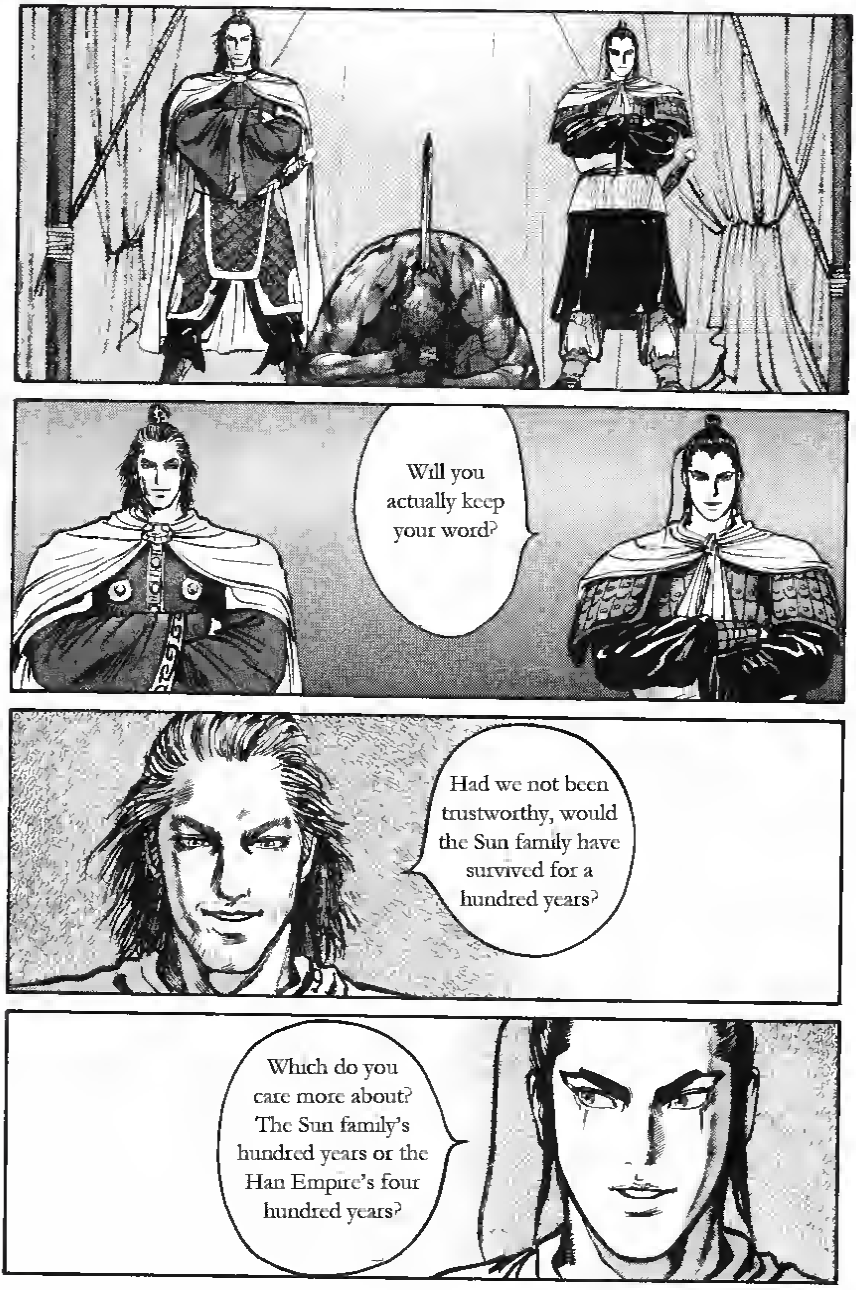
Is it because Zhu Jun is something of a chief in your homeland and you can't raise your price?
Sun Jian, right? If you're an adjutant, why did you not return to Zhu Jun, your commander, in Nanyang?
General, sir! You should not forgive people like him!
コクッ
"Amass fortunes, not positions" this has been the credo of the Sun family for generations.
……


Where were the provisions your two thousand men were transporting on these waters headed for?
Now, let me ask you one last thing.
黄天
太平道
賢師
In a fortress filled with provisions that we had built near Kunyang.
Very well, then.

What!?
If you have nothing more to ask of me, I would like to be given a sword
I will be taking your previous request into account.
Sun Jian
He may be a bandit, but he still is a full-fledged general
Aye...

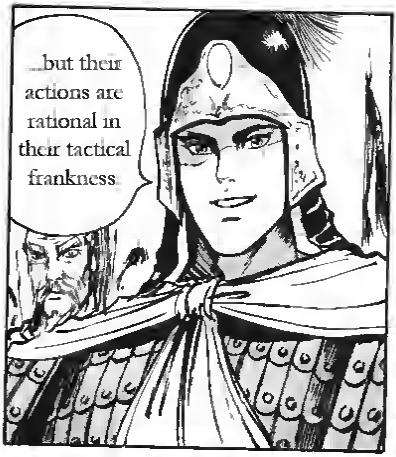

I am prepared for the traitor's infamy
My family will guarantee the safety of yours to the third generation
Be sure to keep your promise, Sun Jian!
I told my enemy all I knew.

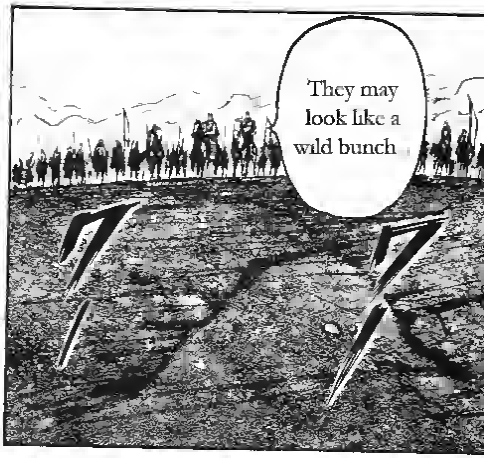

チッ……
カッ!!
ブシュー


Will you actually keep your word?
Had we not been trustworthy, would the Sun family have survived for a hundred years?
Which do you care more about? The Sun family's hundred years or the Han Empire's four hundred years?

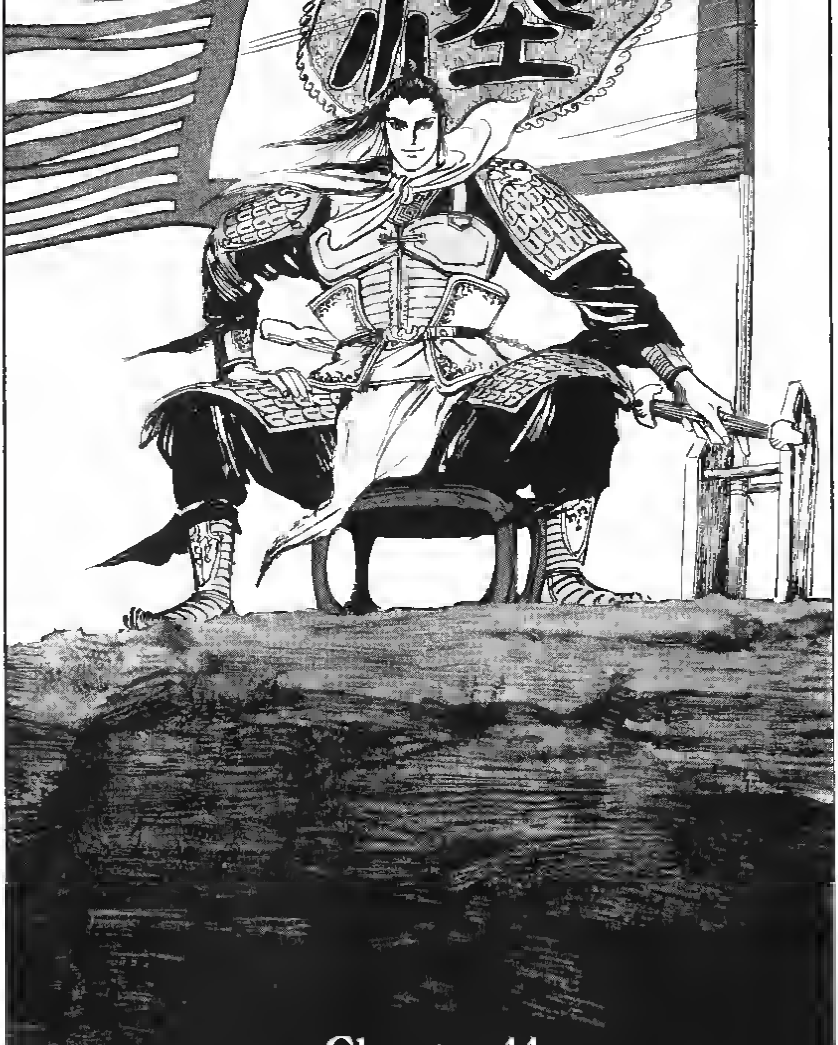
What is the name of the man who asks me this?
My name is Cao Cao Mengde

Report!
Han Dang!
Huang Gai!
Cheng Pu!
Considering the enemy's numbers, we should take a formation that is both offensive and defensive!
No, no, milord!
No, milord! Since the enemy has mostly fielded infantrymen, we should take a formation that can anticipate a change in tactics!
Judging by the enemy's current state of confusion, we should take a dull formation and break through their midst!
Milord!
Onwards!
We shall follow Huang Gai's plan!


...but their actions are rational in their tactical frankness.


They may look like a wild bunch.

If there was to be a man of a different seed than mine who would also be fit for the world under Heaven...
...he would be like him.
その四十三
第3の男
／おわり



Chapter 44

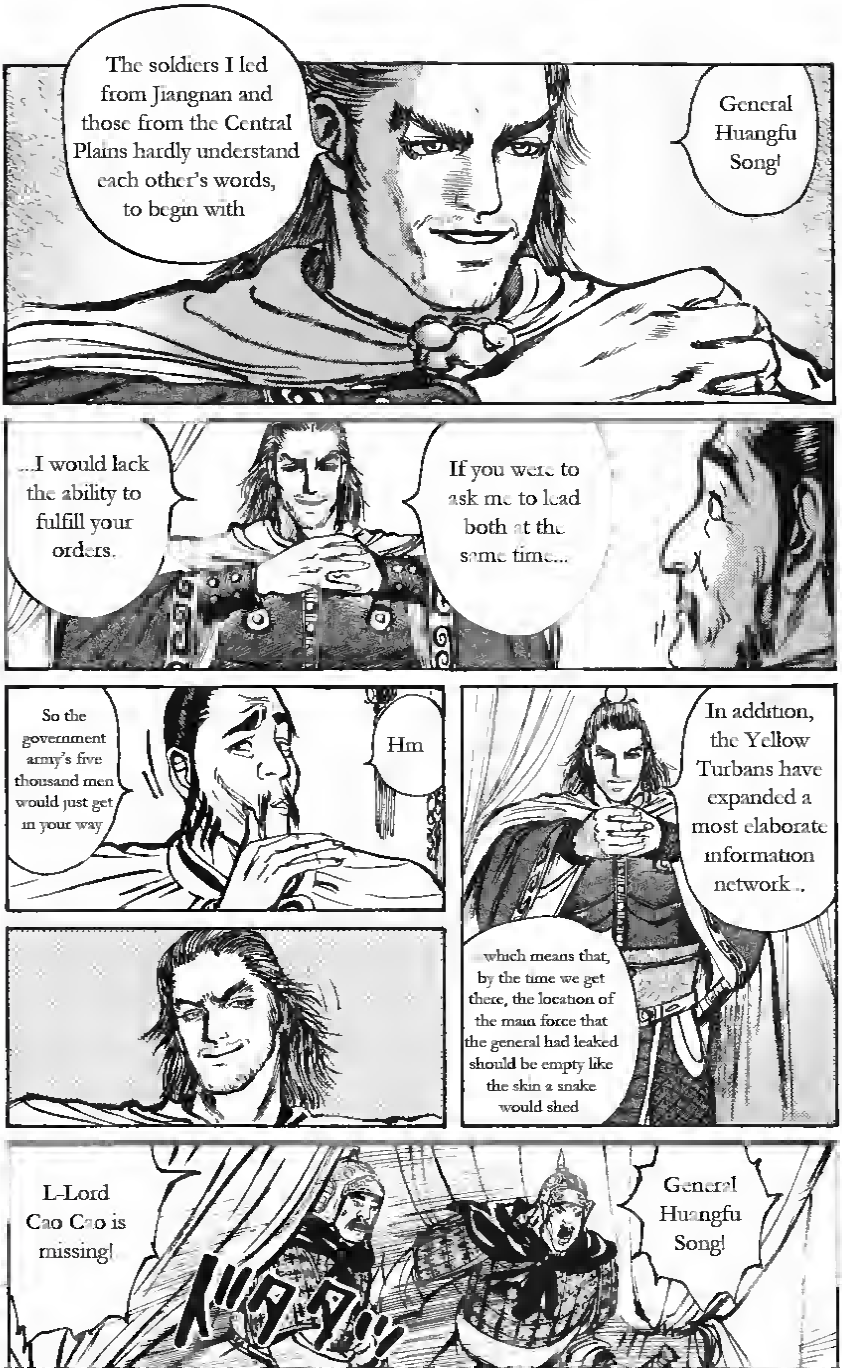
●その四十四●

騎兵に退路あり

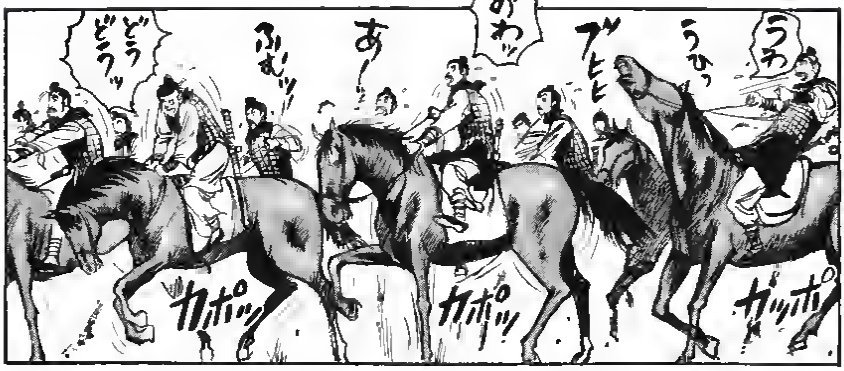
Cavalries Have Retreat Paths

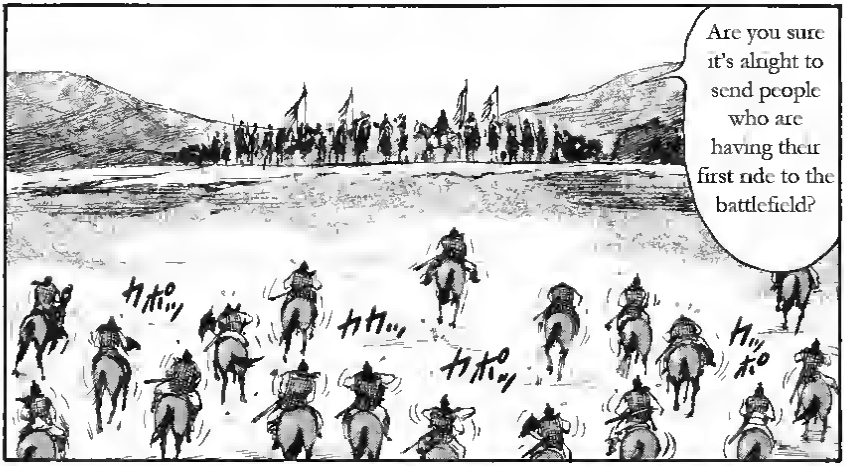
Translated and edited by Lion of Genesis

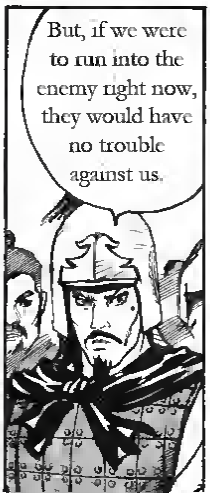
dispatched five thousand men to assault the supply fortress and selected Cao Cao and Sun Jian to lead the attack on the main force.
Having found out about the position of the main force and the supply fortress in Yingchuan from the Yellow Turban general's confession, Huangfu Song, General of Chariots and Cavalry of the government army,
You are to defeat the main force's Lord of Man General Zhang Liang
Sun Jian! I will grant you five thousand men.

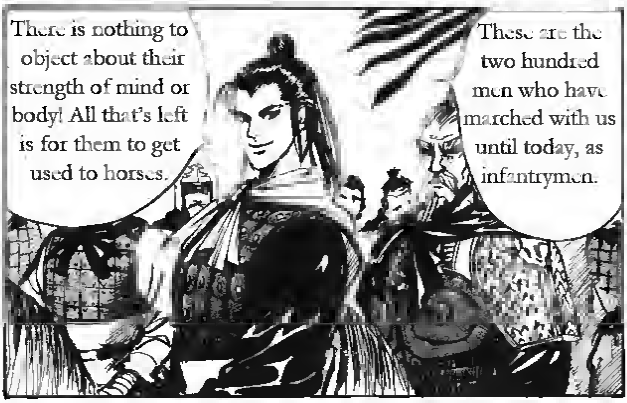

The soldiers I led from Jiangnan and those from the Central Plains hardly understand each other's words, to begin with
General Huangfu Song!
...I would lack the ability to fulfill your orders.
If you were to ask me to lead both at the same time...
So the government army's five thousand men would just get in your way
Hm
In addition, the Yellow Turbans have expanded a most elaborate information network ..
...which means that, by the time we get there, the location of the main force that the general had leaked should be empty like the skin a snake would shed
L-Lord Cao Cao is missing!
General Huangfu Song!

What!?
A-And...
According to the sentry's report, he led his troops out before sunrise
...two thousand horses!
He also took...
Oh well, I guess I'll just have to let these two run free~~
Dear me


どうどうっ
ふむっ
あ
おわっ
ブヒヒ
うおっ
うわ
カポッ
カポッ
ガッポ


Are you sure it's alright to send people who are having their first ride to the battlefield?
カポッ
カポッ
カポッ
ガッポ


But, if we were to run into the enemy right now, they would have no trouble against us.

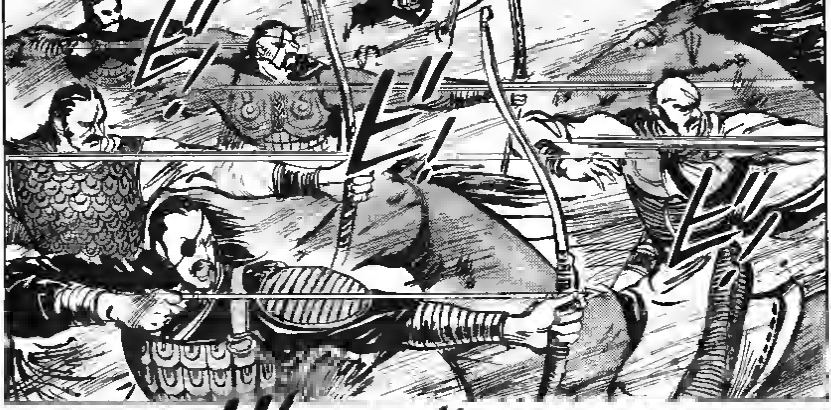

There is nothing to object about their strength of mind or body! All that's left is for them to get used to horses.
These are the two hundred men who have marched with us until today, as infantrymen.

What!?
That's the idea
If we were to add the terror of the battlefield to the delight and excitement of first riding a horse, we would obtain a cavalry corps far stronger than the government army's established one
Captain! Approximately one thousand enemies are coming from the west side!
The enemy!
What are we going to do!?

Retreat.
!
What are we going to do, Cao Cao!?
Retreat!
Retreat!
Retreaaaat!!
Kuh!

Too slow!
Aye!
Zhang Huan! Guide the new cavalry!
and cover the new cavalry's retreat!
Blast Gang! Fire at the enemy from both sides!

ドドド
ドガガ
ドドドドド…
うおあー
ドドド
ヘイヘイヘイヘイ!!
Listen to me without breaking your formation!
ハッ!!
Keep your grips loose and leave it to the horse!
ガガガ
Don't look behind! Don't waste any energy!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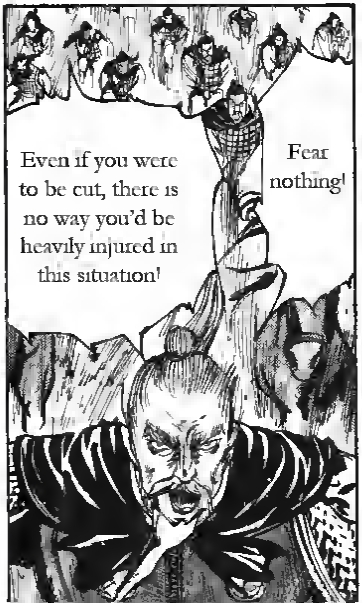
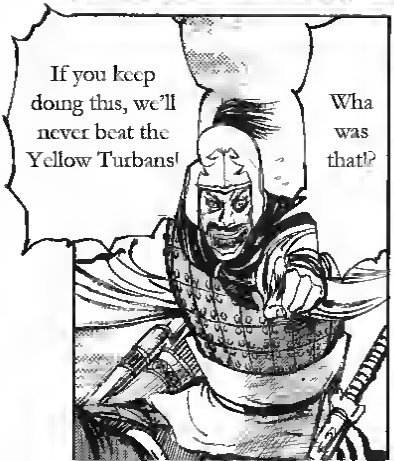

Even if you were to be cut, there is no way you'd be heavily injured in this situation!
Fear nothing!

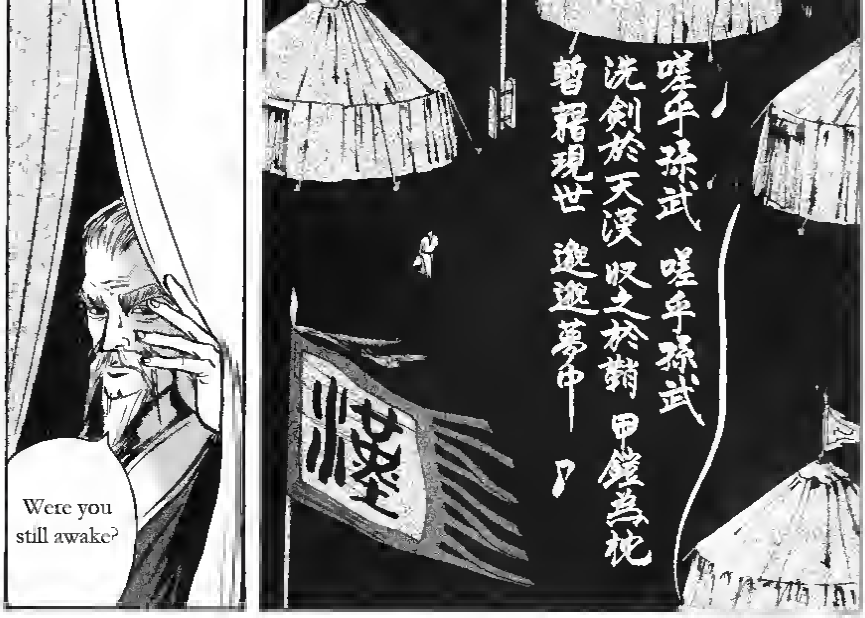
うおりゃあああああ
レイイイイイ

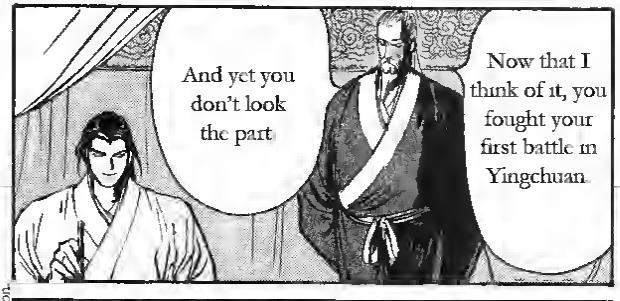

If you keep doing this, we'll never beat the Yellow Turbans!
Wha was that!?

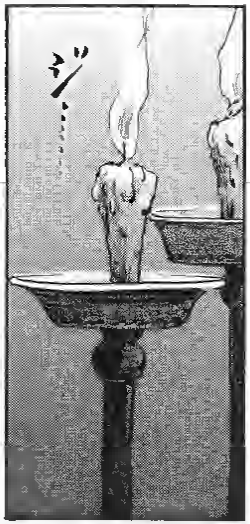
If we do this ten more times, we'll have some fine horsemen

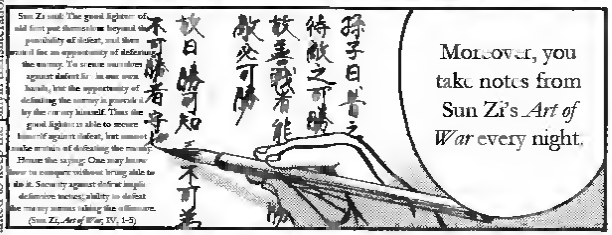
What!?
The Yellow Turbans have already broken their formation!
Look, Xiahou Dun!
The enemy is completely separated because they're focusing on attack.
Baited by the horsemen who weren't used to riding and were running away, the Yellow Turbans' cavalry is in deep pursuit, isn't it?
Non he tells us!
Cao Cao won't lose this day either!
ドドドド…
Look at that! That army is running away from the pursuing Yellow Turbans!
Miloooord!
ドガガガ…

Should we go help them?
くはっはは
はっはっは
They're awful!
Good horsemen must be acquainted to this main purpose.
No. Infantrymen cannot fall back, but horsemen have retreat paths! Running away is the horse's main purpose
That is the military drill of the general called Cao Cao Mengde.
Look carefully.



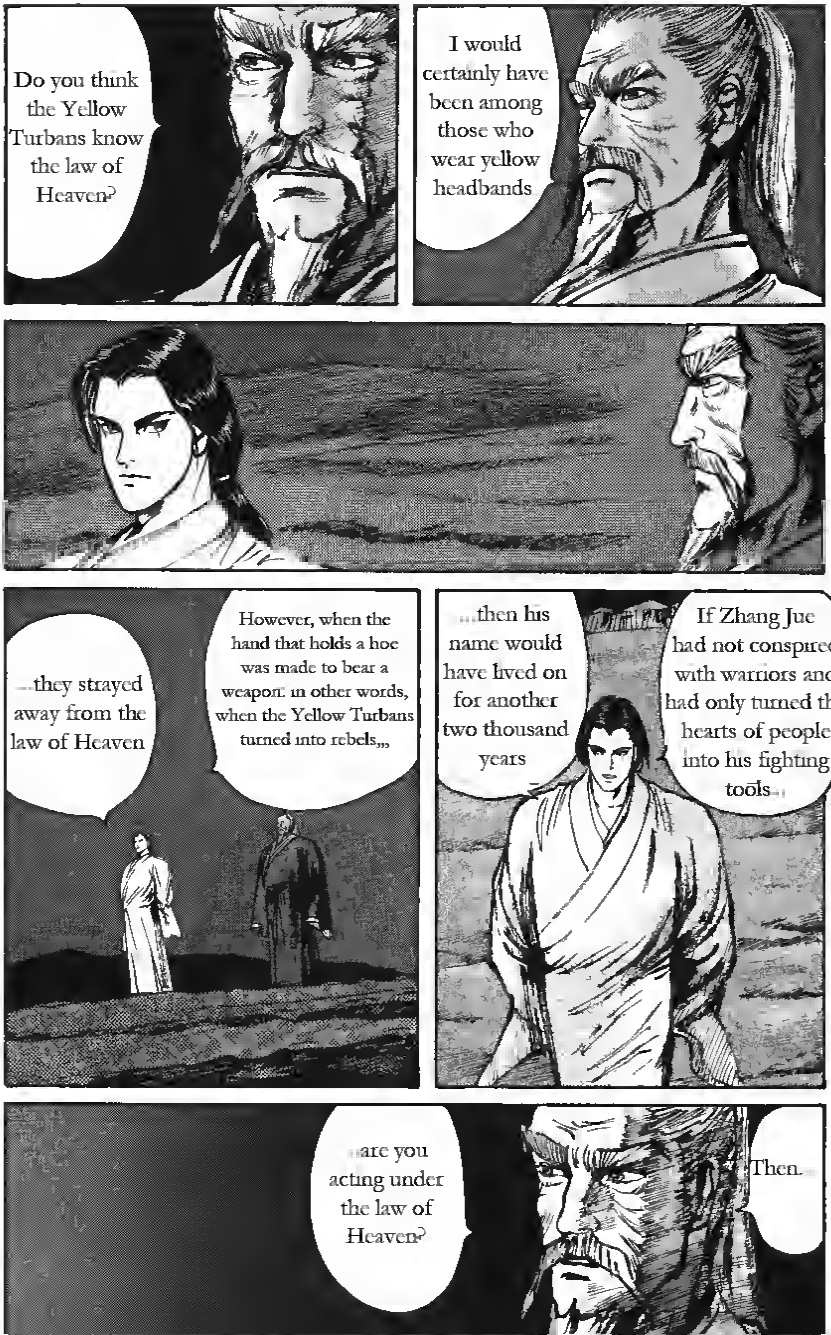


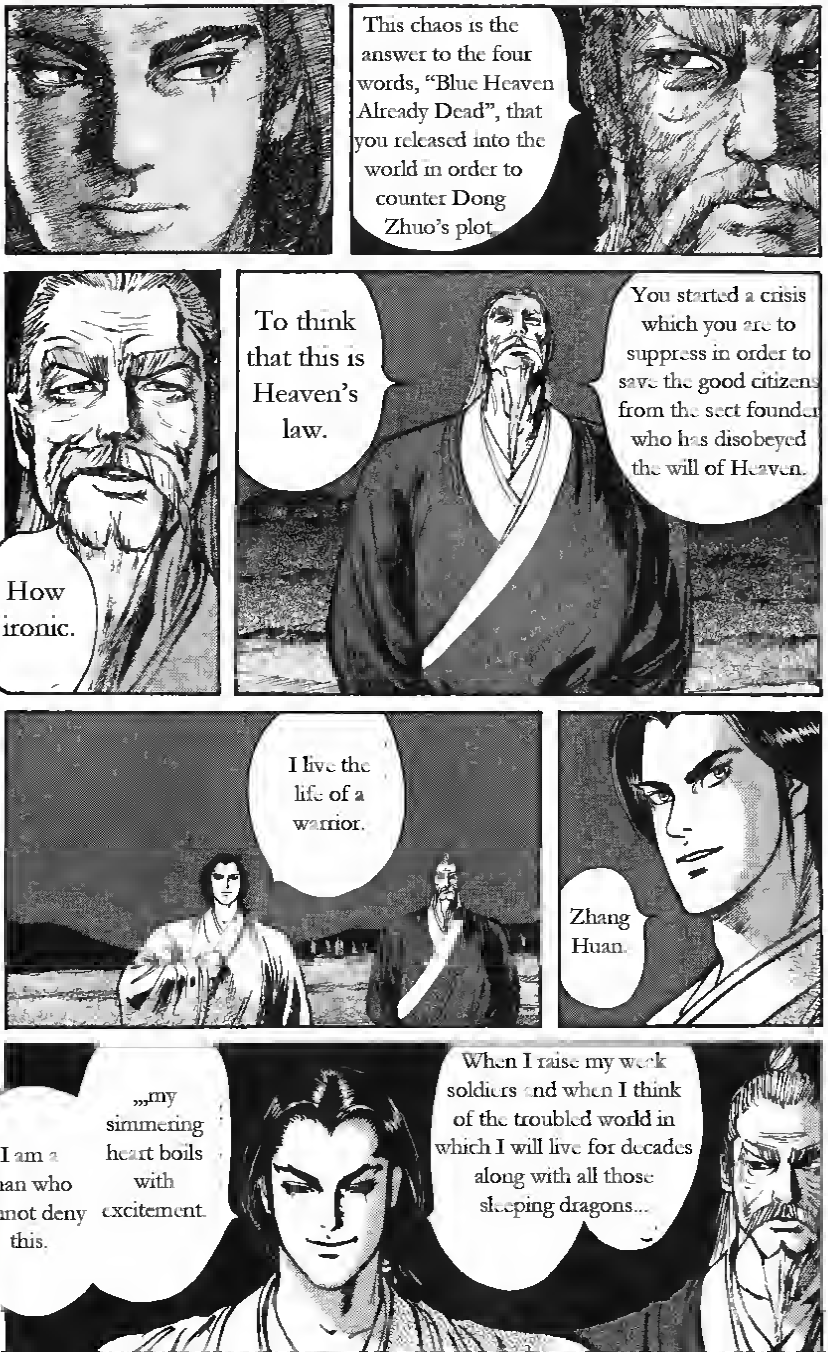



Sun Zi said: The good fighter of old first put themselves beyond the possibility of defeat, and then waited for the opportunity of defeating the enemy. To secure oneself against defeat lie in our own hands, but the opportunity of defeating the enemy is provided by the enemy himself. Thus the good fighter is able to secure himself against defeat, but cannot make certain of defeating the enemy. Hence the saying: One may know how to conquer without being able to do it. Security against defeat implies defensive tactics; ability to defeat means taking the offensive.
(Sun Zi, *Art of War*, IV, 1-5)
孫子曰 昔之善戰者 先為不可勝 以待敵之可勝 不可勝在己 可勝在敵 故善戰者 能為不可勝 不可勝者 守也 可勝者 攻也 故曰 勝可知 而不可為
Moreover, you take notes from Sun Zi's *Art of War* every night.

Translator's note: He's better known as Sun Tzu, but I wanted to keep the pinyin transliteration.

Has something happened?
However, it must have been destiny that you lengthened my life.
If you had not found me, I would have been a dead man.


Do you think the Yellow Turbans know the law of Heaven?
I would certainly have been among those who wear yellow headbands
...they strayed away from the law of Heaven
However, when the hand that holds a hoe was made to bear a weapon: in other words, when the Yellow Turbans turned into rebels,,,
...then his name would have lived on for another two thousand years
If Zhang Jue had not conspired with warriors and had only turned the hearts of people into his fighting tools...
...are you acting under the law of Heaven?
Then...


This chaos is the answer to the four words, "Blue Heaven Already Dead", that you released into the world in order to counter Dong Zhuo's plot.
How ironic.
To think that this is Heaven's law.
You started a crisis which you are to suppress in order to save the good citizens from the sect founder who has disobeyed the will of Heaven.
I live the life of a warrior.
Zhang Huan.
I am a man who cannot deny this.
„my simmering heart boils with excitement.
When I raise my work soldiers and when I think of the troubled world in which I will live for decades along with all those sleeping dragons...

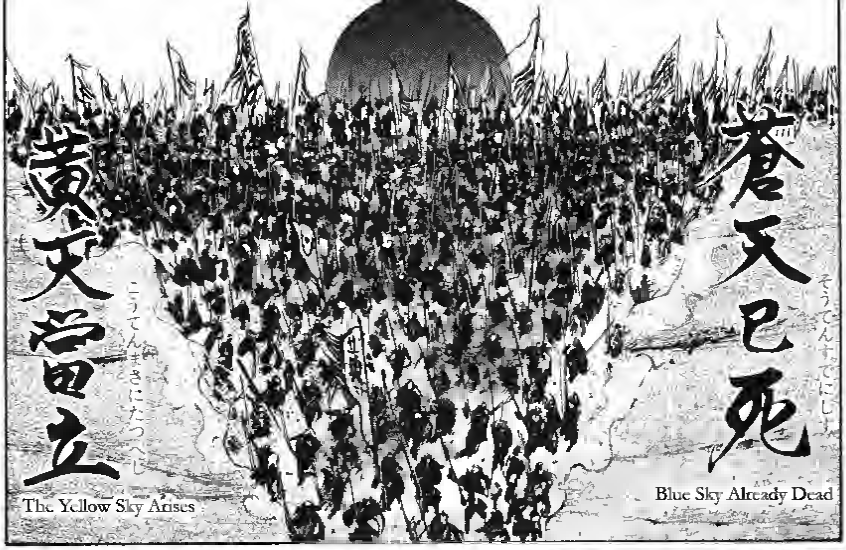
It is quite likely that I will show the moral law of Heaven to the people of these troubled times only if I keep winning
I must inquire whether the law of Heaven is with me!
その四十四
騎兵に退路あり
／おわり

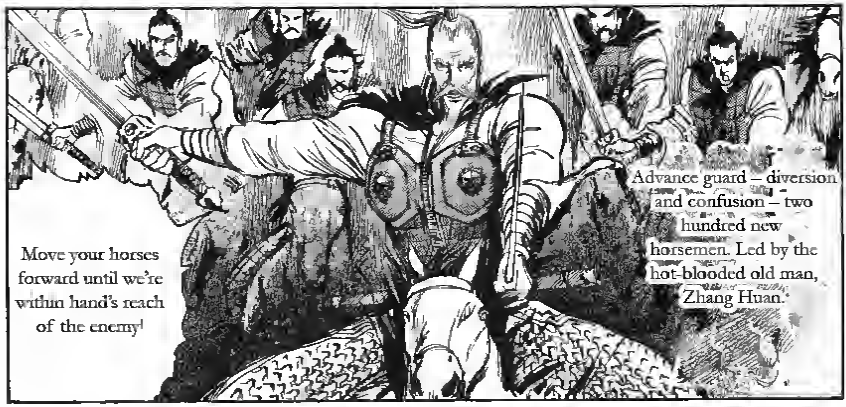
Chapter 45

◐その四十五◐

首狩り鬼嚢

The Head-Hunting Demon Pouch


蒼天已死
そうてんすでにしす
黄天當立
こうてんまさにたつべし
Blue Sky Already Dead
The Yellow Sky Arises

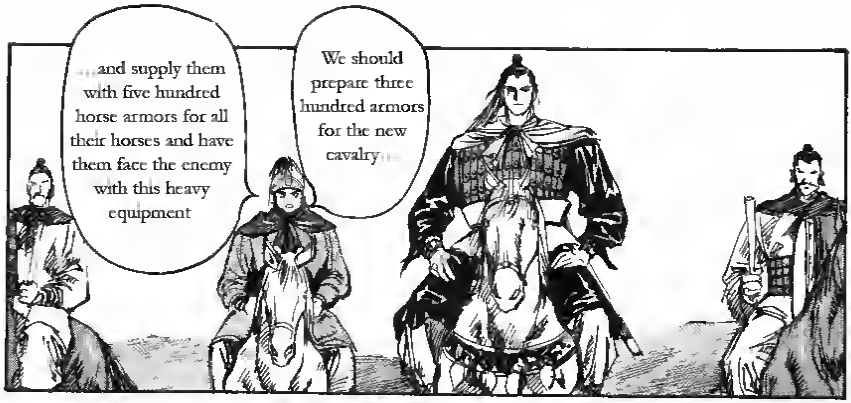

Move your horses forward until we're within hand's reach of the enemy!
Advance guard – diversion and confusion – two hundred new horsemen. Led by the hot-blooded old man, Zhang Huan.

Be sure to break into shooting range!
Second line, left side – fifty cavalry archers. Led by the man who will move forward no matter what, the peerlessly reliable Xiahou Dun.

Second line, right side – fifty cavalry archers Led by Xiahou Yuan, who will move freely even in the deepest crisis.
Fire ten arrows in an instant and break the enemy's formation!
Second line, middle group – one hundred assault troops. The simple-minded and brave Blast Gang
We'll tear the enemy's guts out!
Rearguard, right wing – fifty horsemen Led by the obstinately valiant Cao Ren
Dash to the enemy's rear side at full speed!
Rearguard, left wing – fifty horsemen Led by the steady and scrupulous Cao Hong
Crush the "Heaven" horsemen from behind!

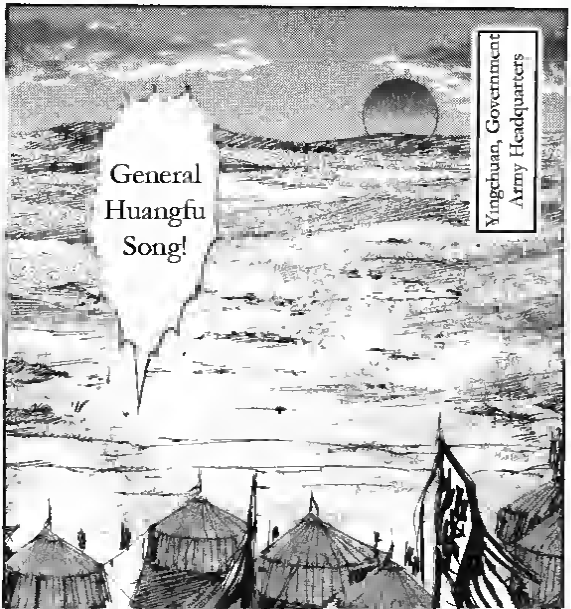
Military organization, campaign plan drafting
The farsighted and deeply planning resourceful young genius, Xun Yu.
This new military formation's battle style is splendid!
The elite unit has made exceptional progress.
It is still not enough.

.....
Why has the number of enemies on the field diminished so much since we arrived here?
Y-Yes!
Xun Yu.
... and that this reduction is the result of their assigning a large number of soldiers in order to defend it to the last!
No, wait! I think this must be because the provisions fortress is an important position
Isn't that the government army's achievement?
Then...
...give us a plan.
Then the government army that went to the provisions fortress was likely wiped out
Exactly


...and supply them with five hundred horse armors for all their horses and have them face the enemy with this heavy equipment
We should prepare three hundred armors for the new cavalry...

Good.

The supply fortress is like a natural stronghold! Five thousand soldiers were crushed without being able to retaliate!


Yingchuan, Government Army Headquarters
General Huangfu Song!

Wiped out, huh?
Hoh.
Hooo.
Hoh.
Hoh.
An impregnable fortress, huh?
Generals!
G
Call Cao Cao and Sun Jian.
Oh!
It seems the time has come to use them
...if we conquer it, we can fundamentally change the state of the war
In other words...

Yingchuan, Yellow Turban Headquarters

I am concerned.

Yellow Turbans, Lord of Man General Zhang Liang

The supply fortress has been found and we have suffered some crushing local defeats

I don't like this at all.

Yellow Turbans Channel Master* Bo Cai (xia member)

Both of these are merely pieces of our battle!

We should not be doubting our decree from Heaven nor should we be worrying

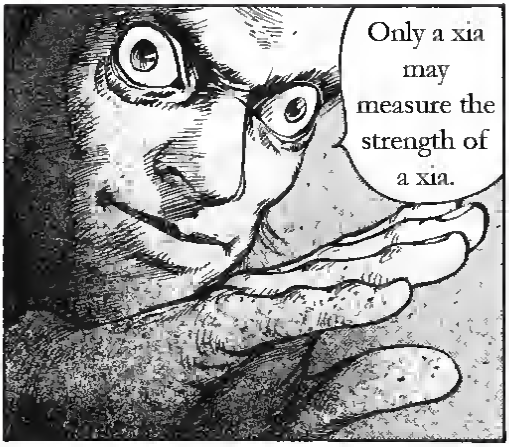
Besides, even if they do know its location, our fortress is in an advantageous position In addition, it's guarded by our veteran Channel Master, Zhang Mancheng! He will certainly not fall

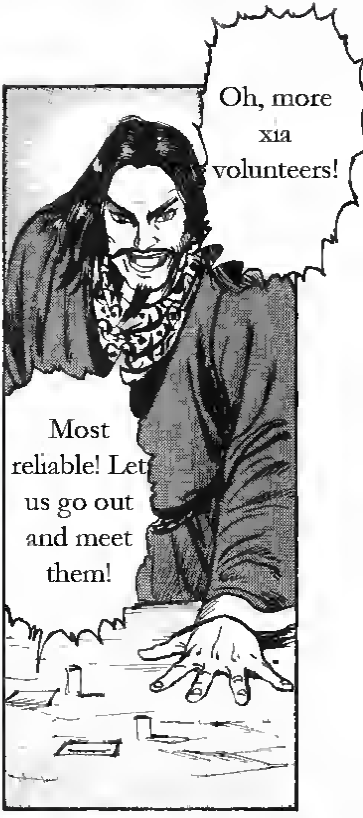
Our proof is that the government army of five thousand was wiped out within moments.

Translator's note: Xia member = Literally, "chivalrous person" or "knight-errant"

*Channel Master: That is what the Yellow Turban leaders were called

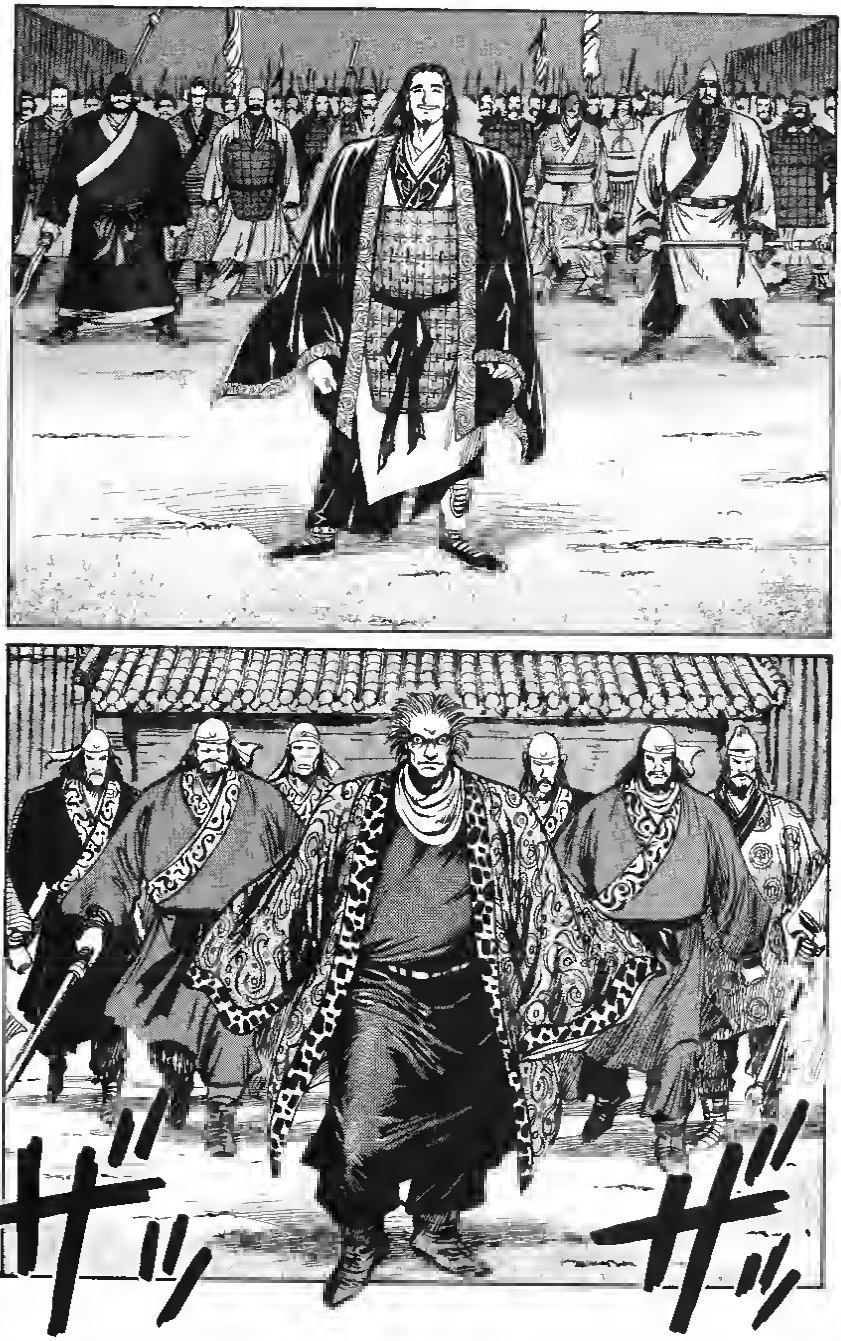
Mhm.
our attracting the government army's attention is the role we have as the Man in Heaven, Earth, Man.
This just means that a part of our army has suffered a great defeat and that the government army's strongest unit has gathered here, in Yingchuan! Also
洛陽
We shall be moving our headquarters one step closer to Luoyang.
It is as you advised.
That is true, Bo Cai
A man who claims to be a xia from Youzhou has come with some five hundred men to volunteer for our army
Excuse me.

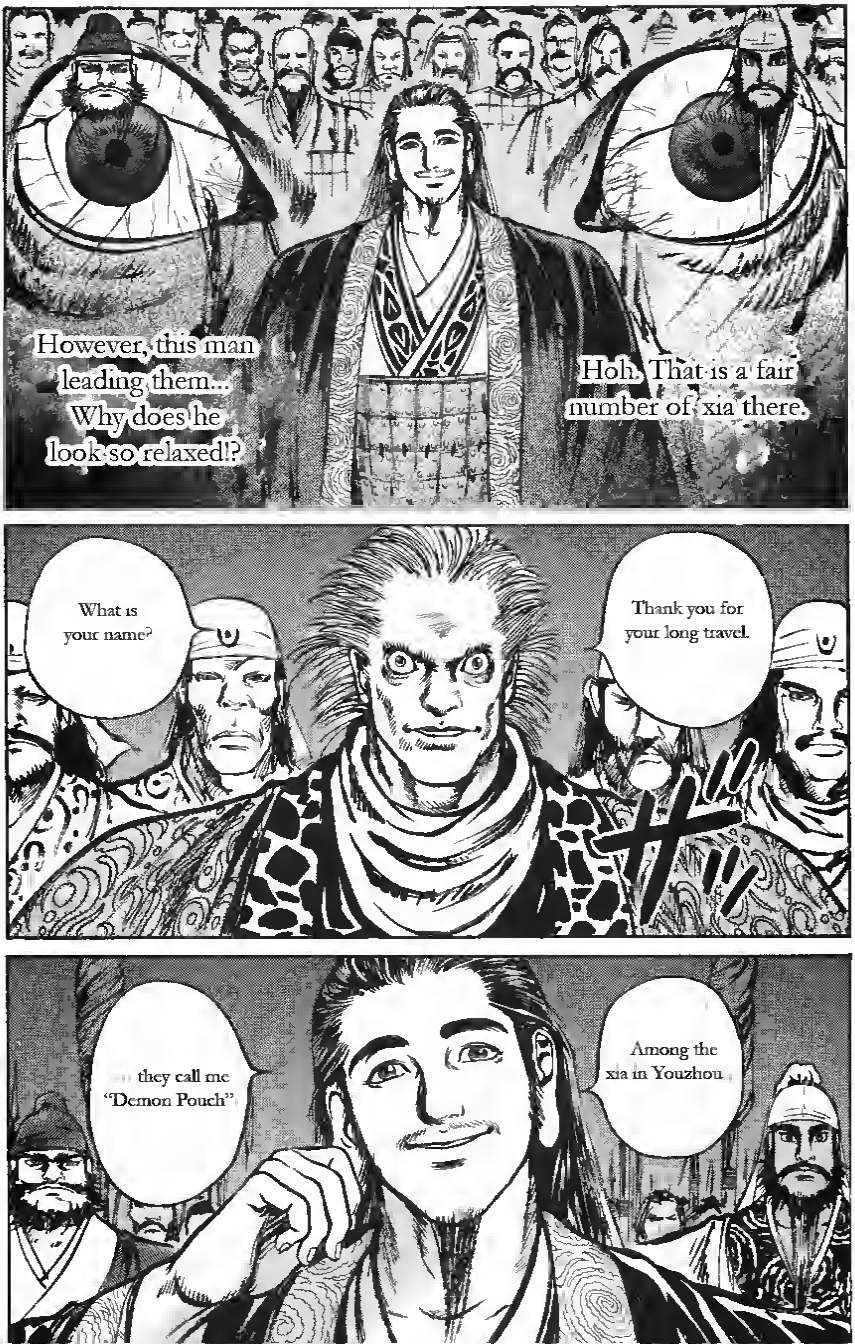

Only a xia may measure the strength of a xia.


Oh, more xia volunteers!
Most reliable! Let us go out and meet them!

Mhm.
Do so.

バタン

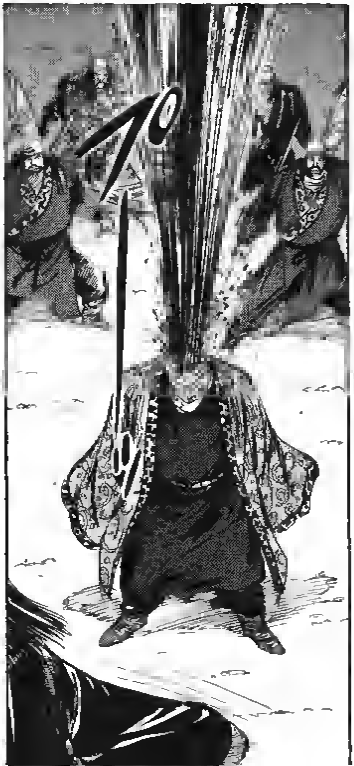

ザッ
ザッ


However, this man leading them... Why does he look so relaxed!?
Hoh. That is a fair number of xia there.
What is your name?
Thank you for your long travel.
ナデ
they call me "Demon Pouch"
Among the xia in Youzhou

Are you Mister Zhang Liang?
Sir Zhang Liang, the Lord of Man General is in these headquarters no more.
I am his assistant, Bo Cai.
Oooooh! A fine man you are!
I'm glad I met you.

は・波大様アアア

S-Sir Bo Cai!


10

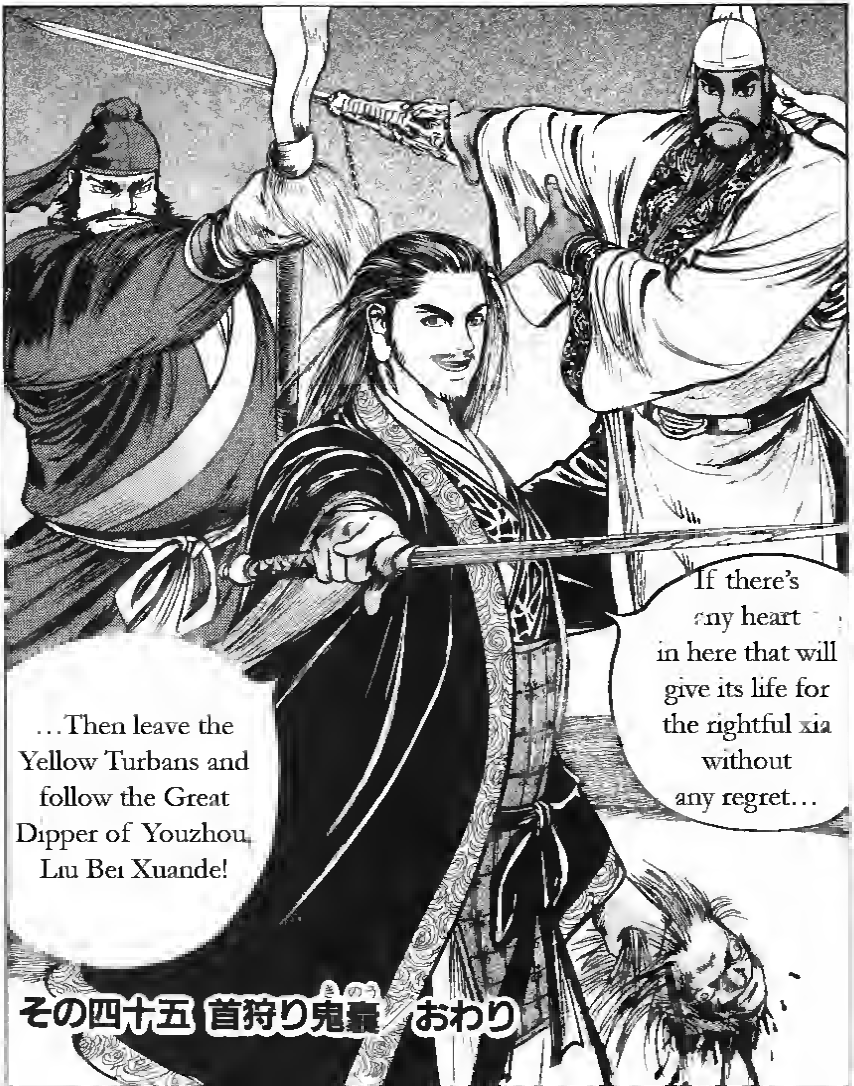
I'll be taking this as a gift for the government army!

A-Are you abandoning the dying populace in order to flatter the rotten Imperial Court you bastard!?
W-Wait!

What kind of xia forgets about his devotion towards the land?

Unforgivable!
Are you mocking the xia? Unforgivable!
Kill these crafty bandits!
That's right, unforgivable! The depraved and fallen Imperial Court is the true enemy of the land!

Forgiving or not forgiving!
Is up to us!



その四十五 首狩り鬼(き)(のう)霊 おわり

The Two Zhangs

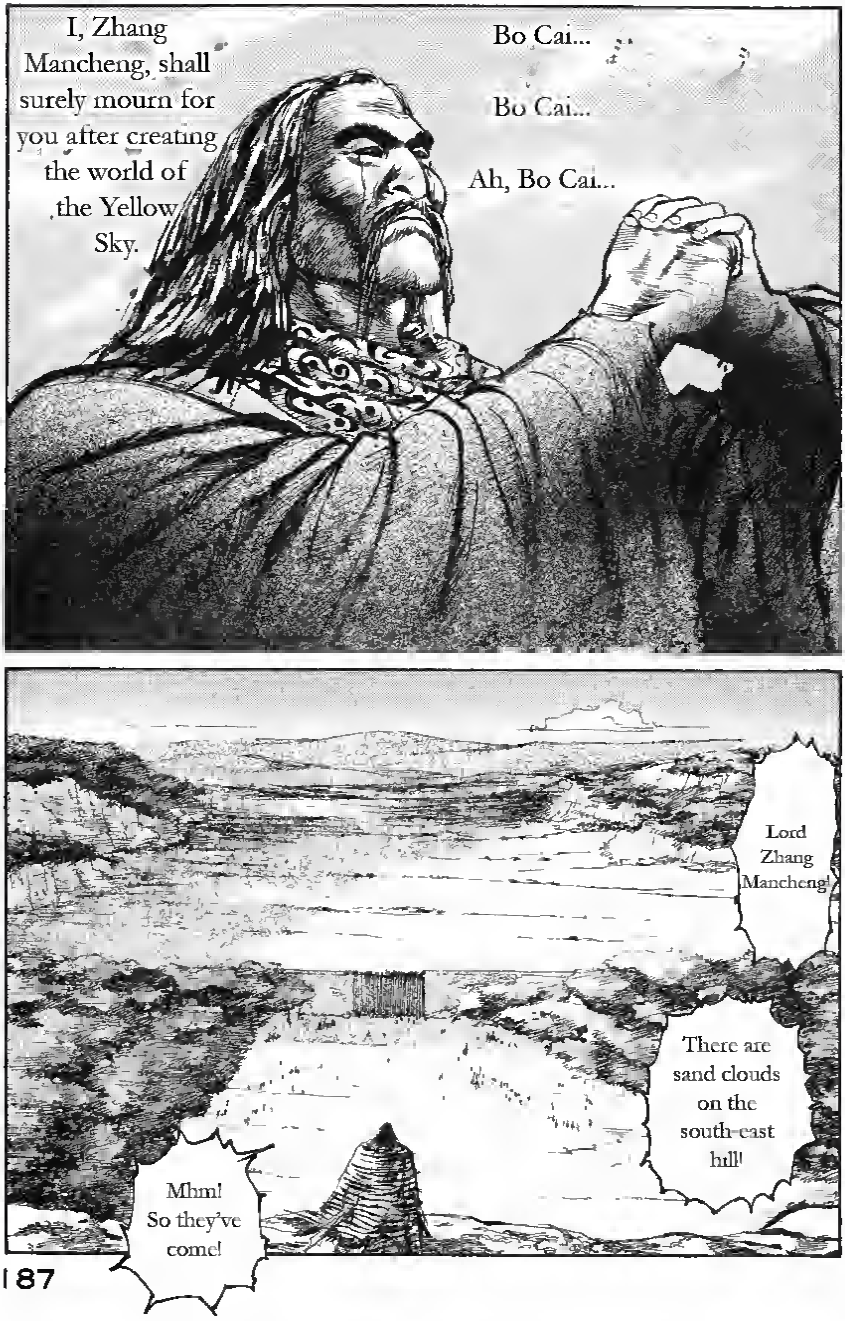
Chapter 46

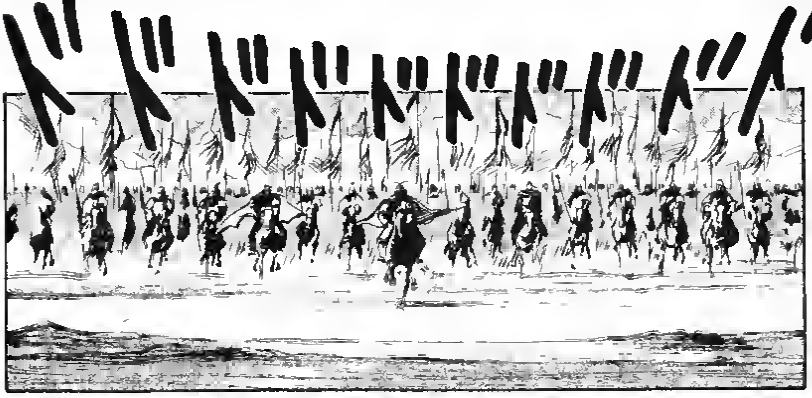
This fortress contains an immense amount of provisions, enough to sustain the 250 000 Yellow Turbans in Yingchuan and Nanyang. This is a very important position for the main army, led by Zhang Jue, and their attack on Luoyang.

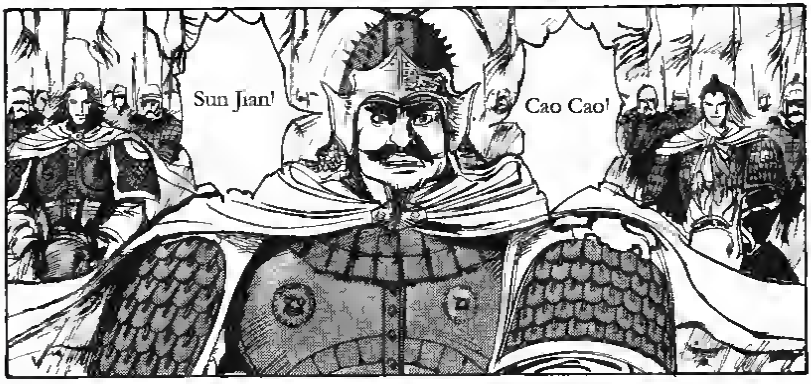
Kunyang
Yellow Turbans
Provisions
Fortress

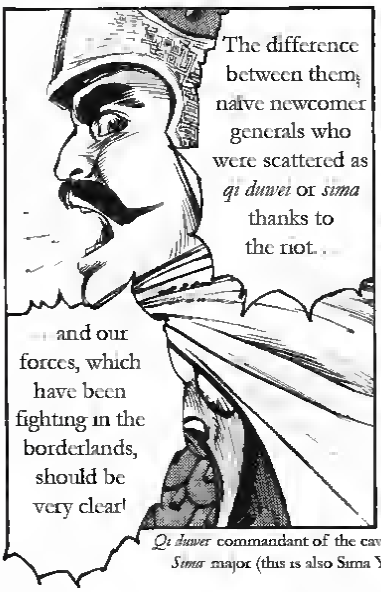
...is the *xia* Channel Master who wiped out the five thousand soldiers of the government army, Zhang Mancheng

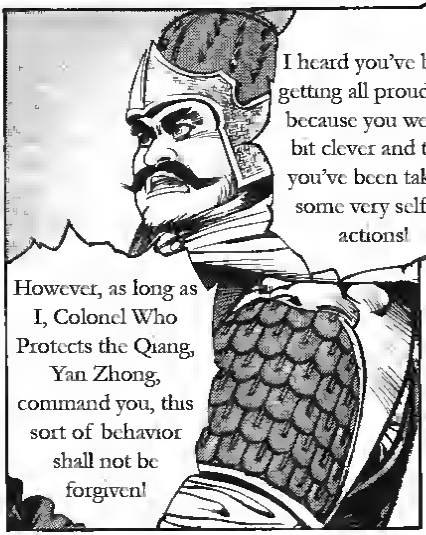
The one bearing the burden of this fortress...


I, Zhang Mancheng, shall surely mourn for you after creating the world of the Yellow Sky.
Bo Cai...
Bo Cai...
Ah, Bo Cai...
Lord Zhang Mancheng!
There are sand clouds on the south-east hill!
Mhm! So they've come!






The difference between them, naïve newcomer generals who were scattered as *qi duwei* or *sima* thanks to the riot...
...and our forces, which have been fighting in the borderlands, should be very clear!


I heard you've been getting all proud just because you were a bit clever and that you've been taking some very selfish actions!
However, as long as I, Colonel Who Protects the Qiang, Yan Zhong, command you, this sort of behavior shall not be forgiven!

Qi duwei commandant of the cavalry (like Cao Cao)
Sima major (this is also Sima Yi's family name)

Control your soldiers and have a good look without getting in our way!
ドドド
Ye are to be slaughtered to the last as a burial gift to *qu shuai* Bo Cai!
Ye eight thousand men of the government army!
うおおおおお

Qu shuai "Local leader" or "gang leader"

ウーン
ドドドド
バン
ドガガン
ドガ

ドドド
バシュ バシュバシュ
バババババババン

うわあああああ
ガ
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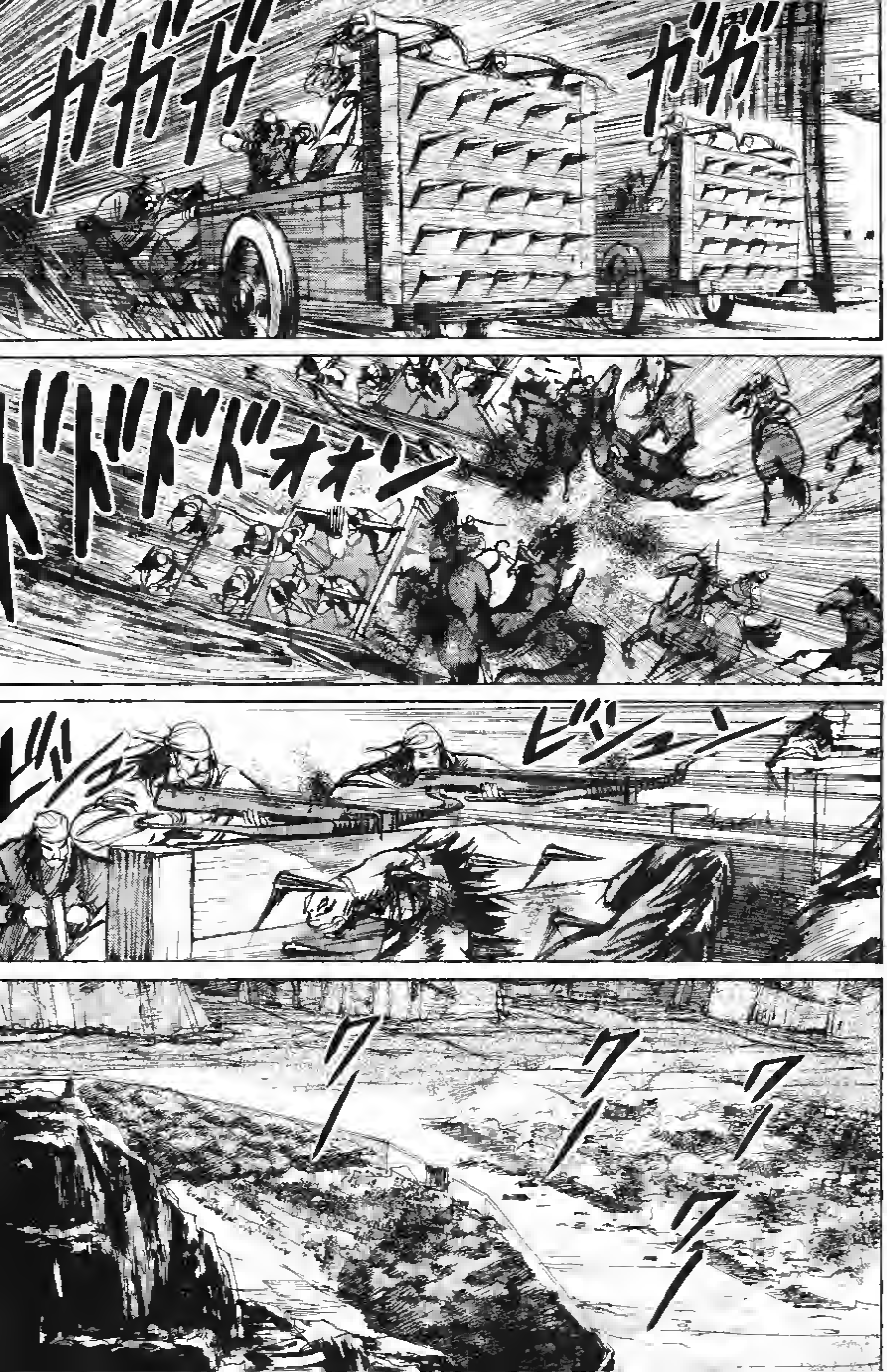
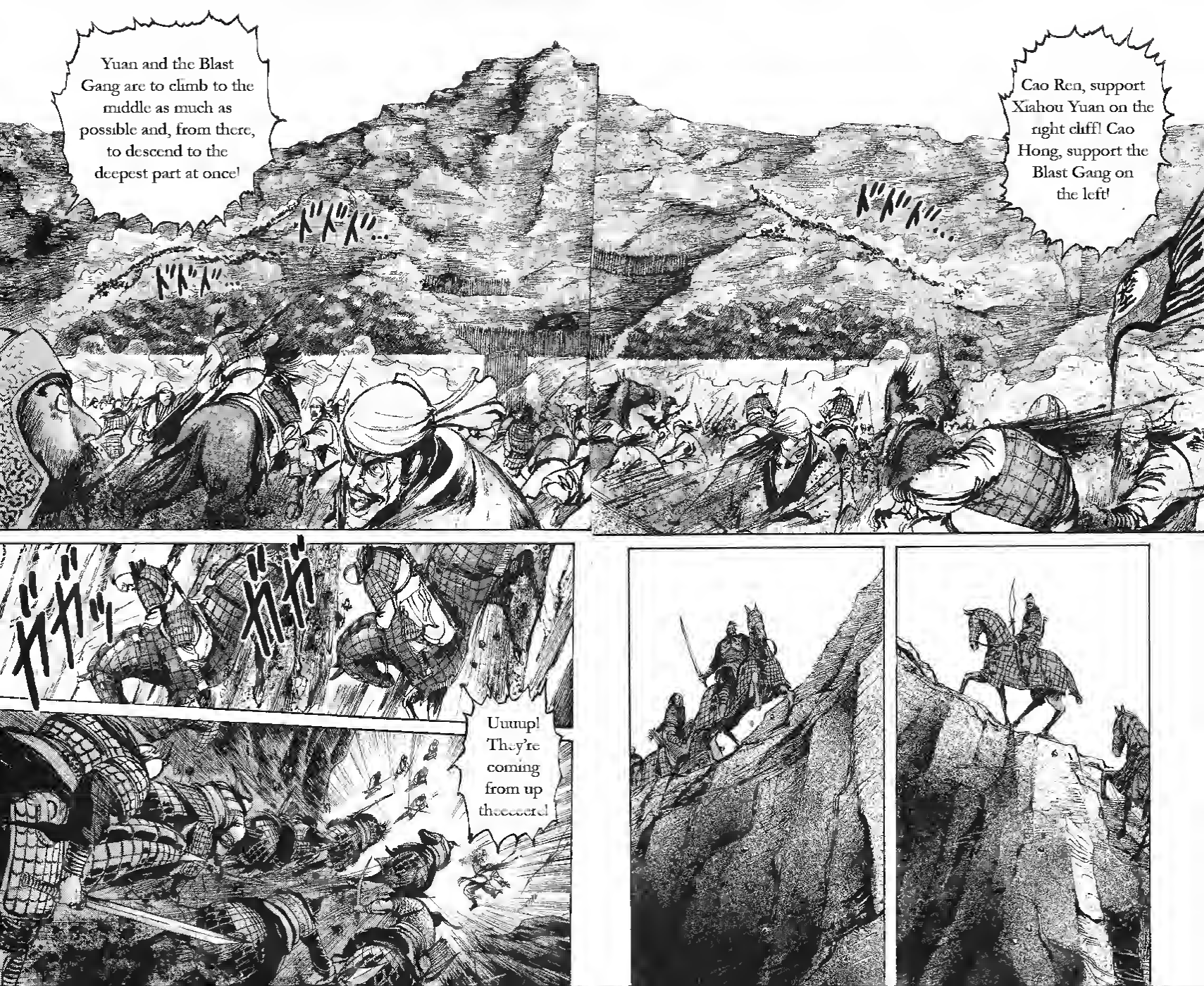
ゴッ
ゴッ
ドドオオ


ガガガ
ガガ
ドドドドドドドドドオオン
ビシュン
ビシュ
ワ
ワ
ワ
ワ
ワ

Ugh!
Wipe them out!
Pursue them and finish them off!
We need to regroup.
We shouldn't have brought troops that'd burden us. At any rate, we're at a disadvantage.
Fall back! Fall baaack!
Retreaaat!

The government army is so weak, that the enemy who was supposed to be on the defensive feels like finishing them off. I can use this as bait.
Wha--!
Don't retreat! Those who retreat shall be beheaded!
Xiahou Dun! Zhang Huan! Their leader is at the top!
Take the formation of the goose flight and dash on the left and right cliffs!
.....
What!?


Yuan and the Blast Gang are to climb to the middle as much as possible and, from there, to descend to the deepest part at once!
ﾊﾞﾊﾞﾊﾞ...
ﾊﾞﾊﾞﾊﾞ...
Cao Ren, support Xiahou Yuan on the right cliff! Cao Hong, support the Blast Gang on the left!
ﾊﾞﾊﾞﾊﾞ...
ﾊﾞﾊﾞﾊﾞ
ﾊﾞﾊﾞﾊﾞ
Uuuup! They're coming from up thereeee!

Alright, now!
Han Dang! Huang Gai! Go up front and break through the middle!
Cheng Pu! Once you enter the fortress, close the gates and lock the enemy out!
You're actually fighting but a few soldiers!
Don't lose yourselves!
However, what is it with the morale of this small number of soldiers!? They are inferior to my troops, how could they possibly win!?

Draw your sword, general of the Yellow Turbans!
Could it be that, just like we believe in our Great Virtuous Master, Lord Zhang Jue, these officers and men have someone they believe in? In this utterly rotten land!?
Fine then.
Name thyself!
My name is Zhang Mancheng!

… has no name worth giving you anymore!
This body of mine that has once drowned in the muddy waters of the Han Empire
The man who is guided by Heaven, Lord Cao Cao Mengde…
…calls me Zhang Huan.
Then is that name not worth giving even to the man you serve!?
Then…
Hooooh, Heaven, you say!

Let us fight to our heart's content!
HUMH!

Translated and edited
by Lion of Genesis

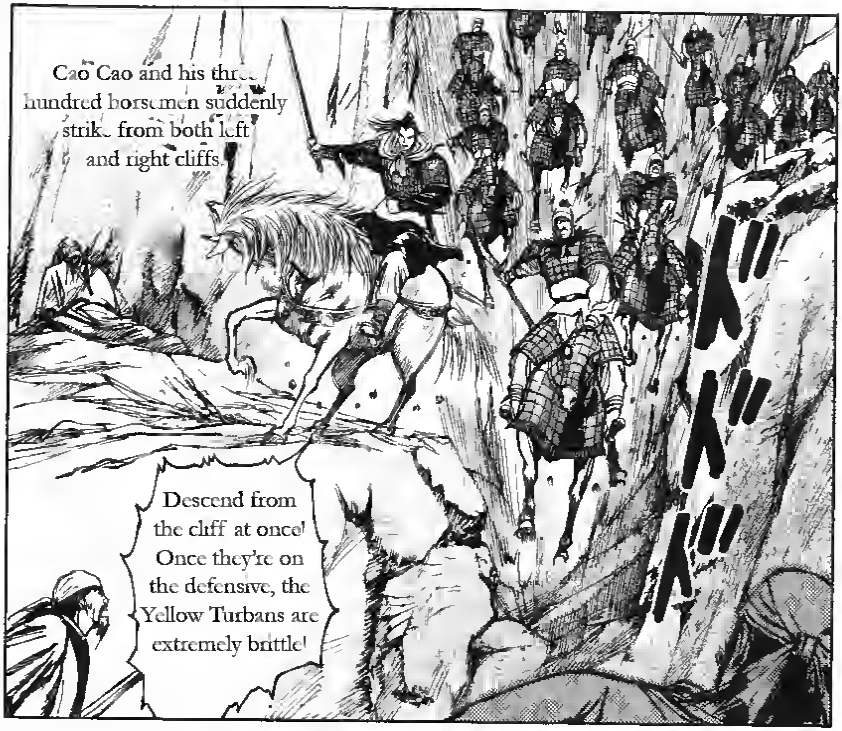
Chapter 47

●その四十七●

大乱の峠

The Rebellion's Mountain Pass

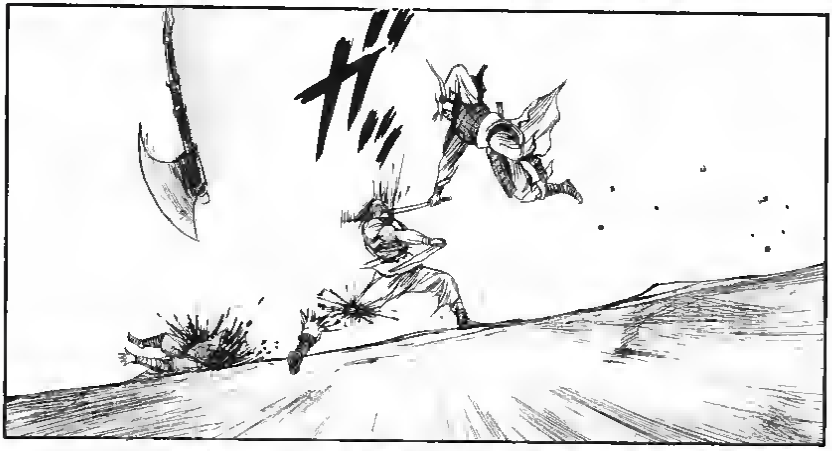
ワーワー
ギン
ガイン
ドガン
Sun Jian's and his one thousand horsemen break through the middle
The gate has been broken!
UWAAAAAAH!


Cao Cao and his three hundred horsemen suddenly strike from both left and right cliffs.
ドドド

ドンッ

I have failed!
ガ
ガガッ
…I, Zhang Mancheng! I shall not let live!
Whomever stands in the way of the Yellow Sky…

ズ


ガ

ヒ

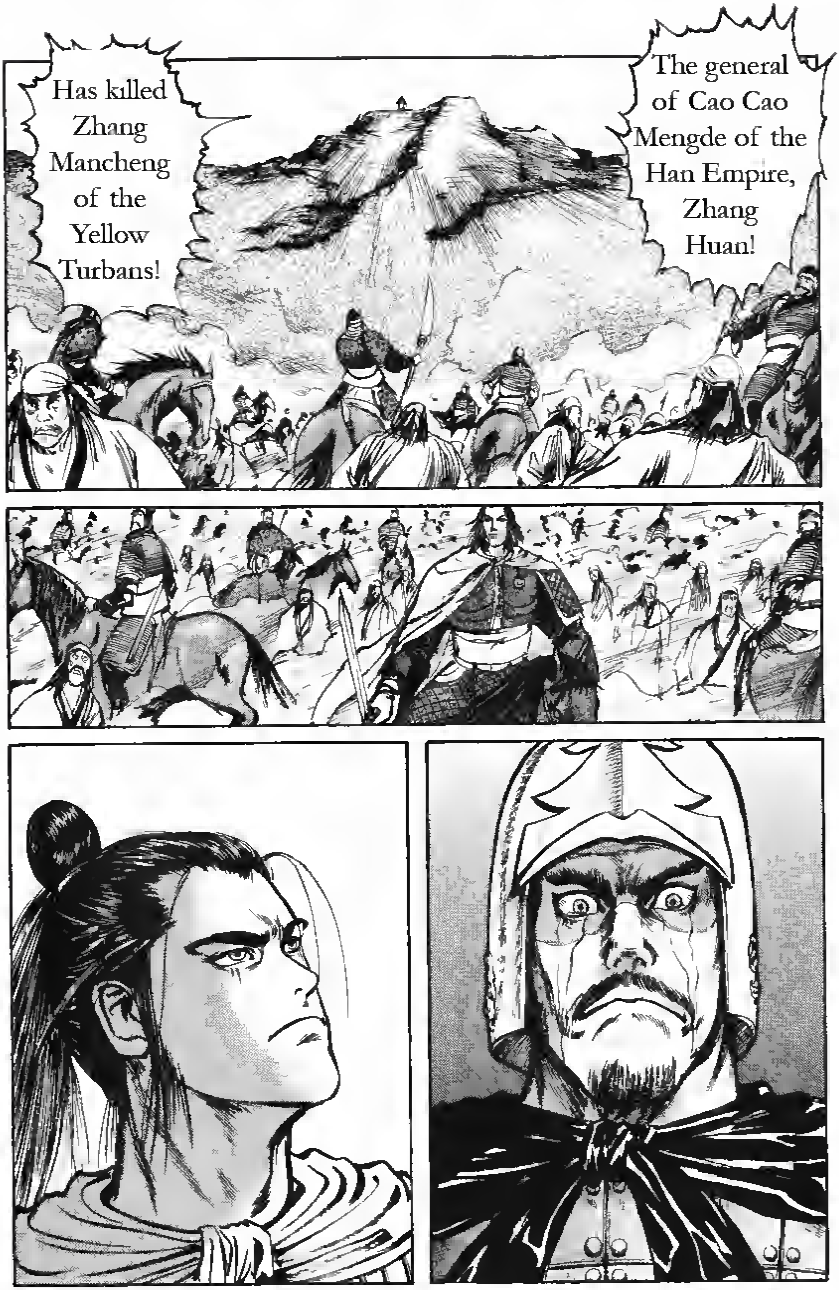
ばっ

This man, too...
...is strong!
...frighteningly strong.
Their army is...

Great Virtuous Teacher, Lord Zhang Jue
Yellow Sky Truly Arises!
万歳!!
Long live he!

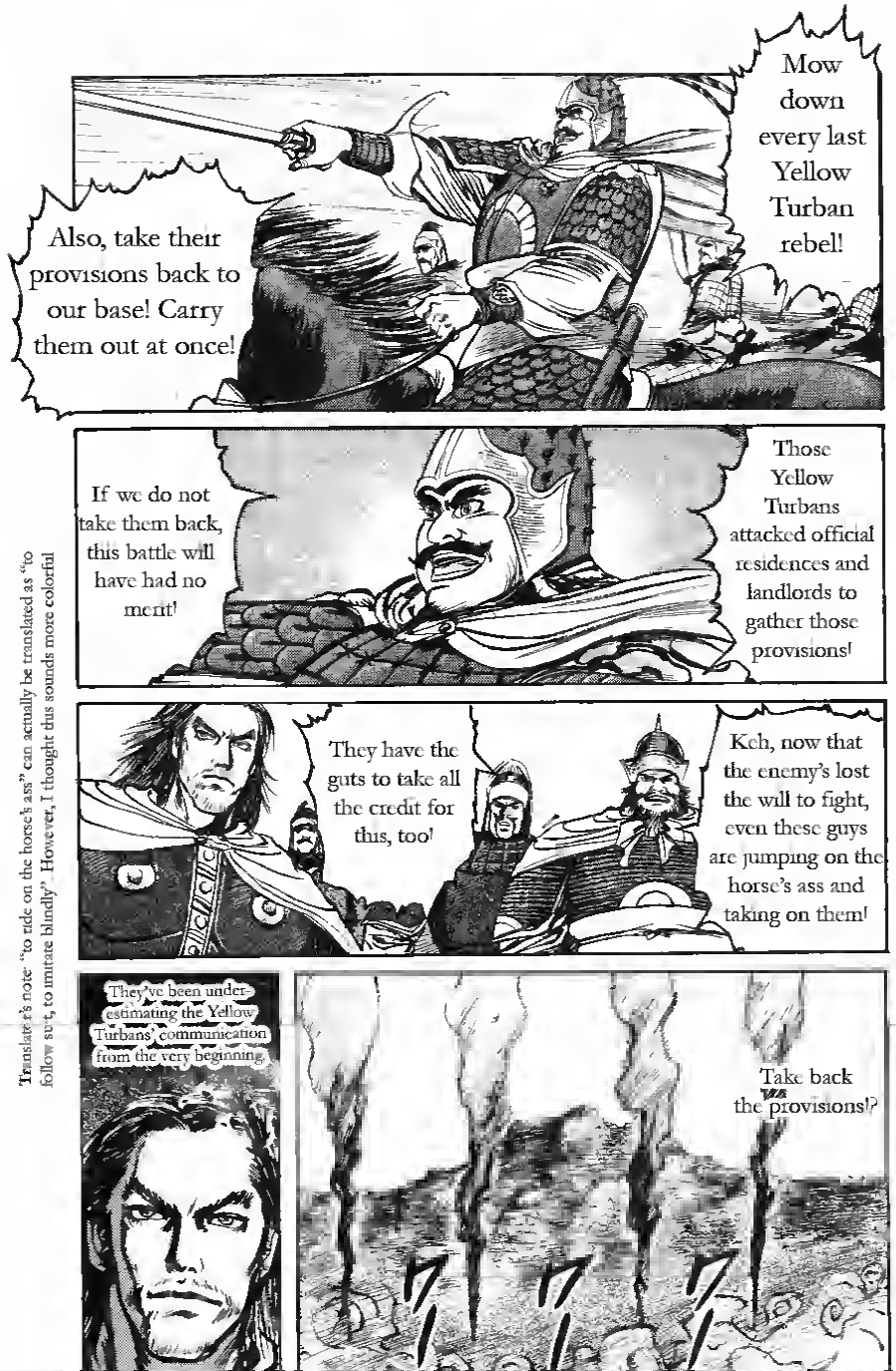
Xi-Xiahou Dun
ズンガリ
Aye!
Now, of all times, I regret losing my life.
It seems that he had even given this old fool a dream.
I wish
...I had seen but a glimpse of Lord Cao's world

We must protect this fortress at all cost!
That's!
Aah!
Use the beacons to call for reinforcements!
Aah!


Has killed Zhang Mancheng of the Yellow Turbans!
The general of Cao Cao Mengde of the Han Empire, Zhang Huan!

Lord
Zhang
Huan…

ドガガ…

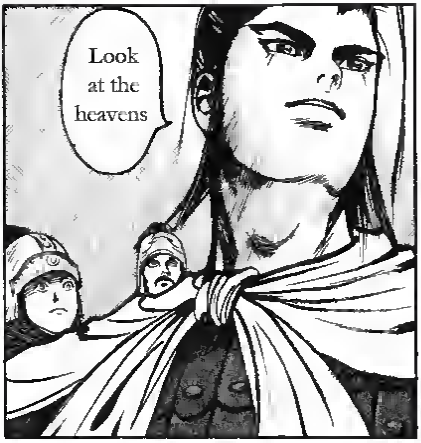

Mow down every last Yellow Turban rebel!
Also, take their provisions back to our base! Carry them out at once!
Those Yellow Turbans attacked official residences and landlords to gather those provisions!
If we do not take them back, this battle will have had no ment!
Keh, now that the enemy's lost the will to fight, even these guys are jumping on the horse's ass and taking on them!
They have the guts to take all the credit for this, too!
They've been underestimating the Yellow Turbans' communication from the very beginning.
Take back the provisions!?

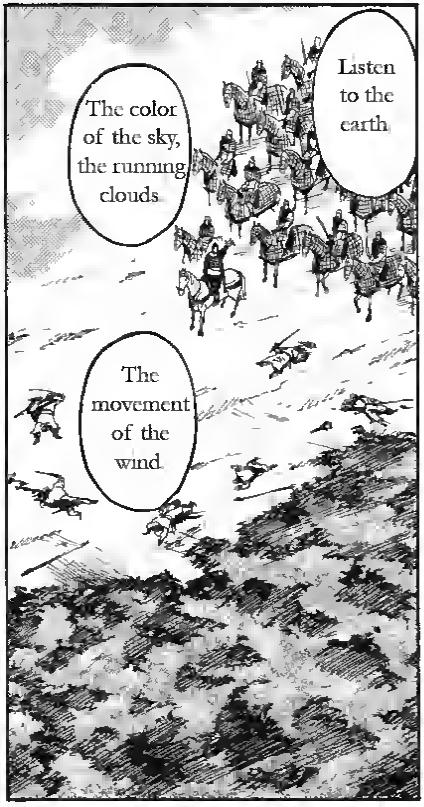
Translator's note: "to ride on the horse's ass" can actually be translated as "to follow suit, to imitate blindly". However, I thought this sounds more colorful

We're withdrawing! Gather the troops
Han Dang!
Sir!
Xun Yu
Give us a plan.
I am still taken aback by Lord Zhang Huan's death

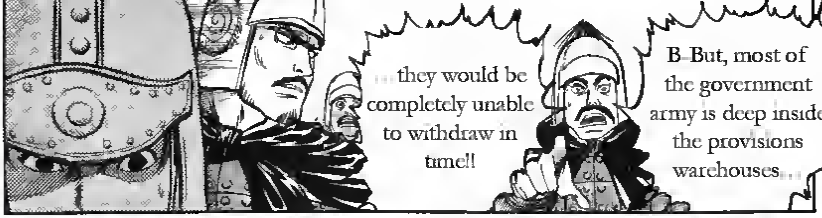
Then we too should call for reinforcements, then we should close ourselves inside the fortress and defend against the Yellow Turbans' reinforcements.
That will not do.
We should now attempt to convince Lord Yan Zhong to withdraw.
I have a suggestion!
That will not do.
Sir!
Xun Yu.
We wouldn't be rewarding those who died here, would we!
If we let the Yellow Turbans regain their provisions, this battle will have completely been for naught!
The only other thing we can do is abandon the government army and withdraw!
Sir!
Look at the battlefield in its greatness.

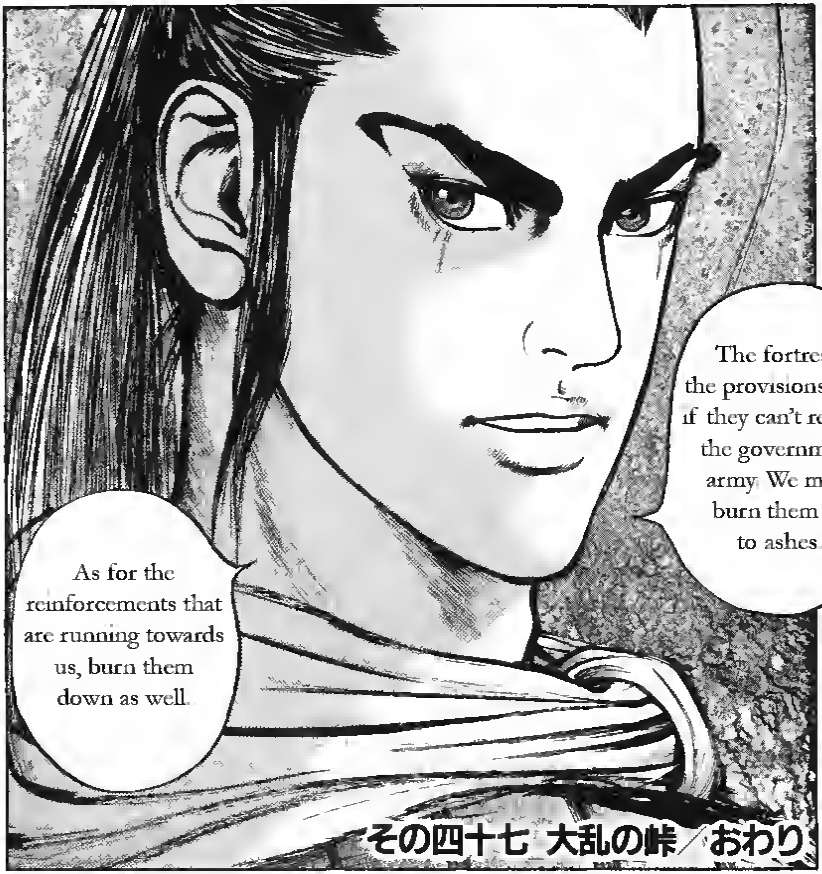
Feel everything with your five senses and look at the enemy and the ally's movements.


Look at the heavens


The color of the sky, the running clouds
Listen to the earth
The movement of the wind

This could truly be the turning point in the Yellow Turbans' rebellion.
Xun Yu.
If this were the turning point, what would your plan be?
S-Sir!
Qi duwei, sir! Nearly twenty thousand men are causing a sand cloud in the east!
We've confirmed almost thirteen thousand men coming from the west!
.....
Burn.


they would be completely unable to withdraw in time!!
B-But, most of the government army is deep inside the provisions warehouses...


The fortress, the provisions and, if they can't retreat, the government army. We must burn them all to ashes.
As for the reinforcements that are running towards us, burn them down as well.
その四十七 大乱の峠／おわり

...ride on the wind and spread across the land in the blink of an eye.
Let us make the complete destruction of the Yellow Turbans from this region...

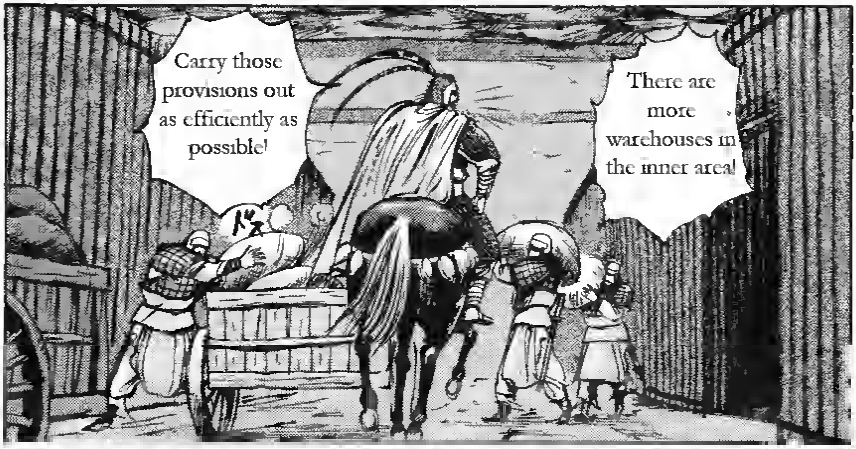
Translated and edited by Lion of Genesis

Chapter 48

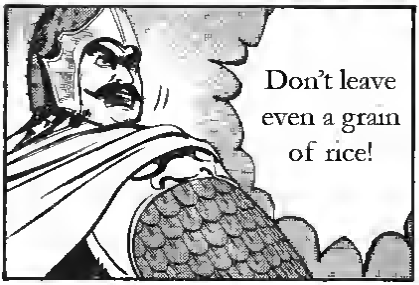
○その四十八○

指揮権強奪

Plundering Command

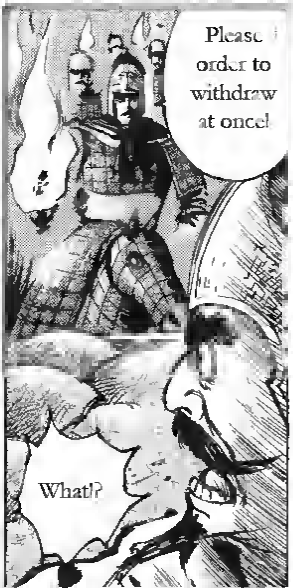

Carry those provisions out as efficiently as possible!
There are more warehouses in the inner area!

Lord Yan Zhong!


Don't leave even a grain of rice!

What did you saaay!?

We shall be burning the fortress to the ground!


Please order to withdraw at once!
What!?

Lord Sun Jian, look at that!
ドガガ…
They have over twenty thousand soldiers in total!
The Yellow Turbans' reinforcements are coming from the east and the west!
The government army will likely be unable to counter them
They've arrived faster than I expected
ドドド…

Miloooord! The Yellow Turbans' fortress is on fire!
So even Lord Yan Zhong finally gave up on his immediate success
This is him!
This is Cao Cao Mengde's doing!

A whole army = "If you crush an army's morale, you bring confusion to an enemy general's state of mind" A line from China's oldest tactician, Sun Zi (Sun Tzu)

By burning the military provisions that are the very foundation of all Yellow Turbans and defeating reinforcements of over twenty thousand with only five hundred horsemen, he will make the Yellow Turbans from all over the land lose their spirit. He'll also make their leaders be greatly agitated

A whole army may be robbed of its spirit; a commander-in-chief may be robbed of his presence of mind.

For that purpose, he will not hesitate to burn the fortress along with the six thousand men of the government army, who were carrying provisions.

Over-solicitude for his men exposes him to worry and trouble.

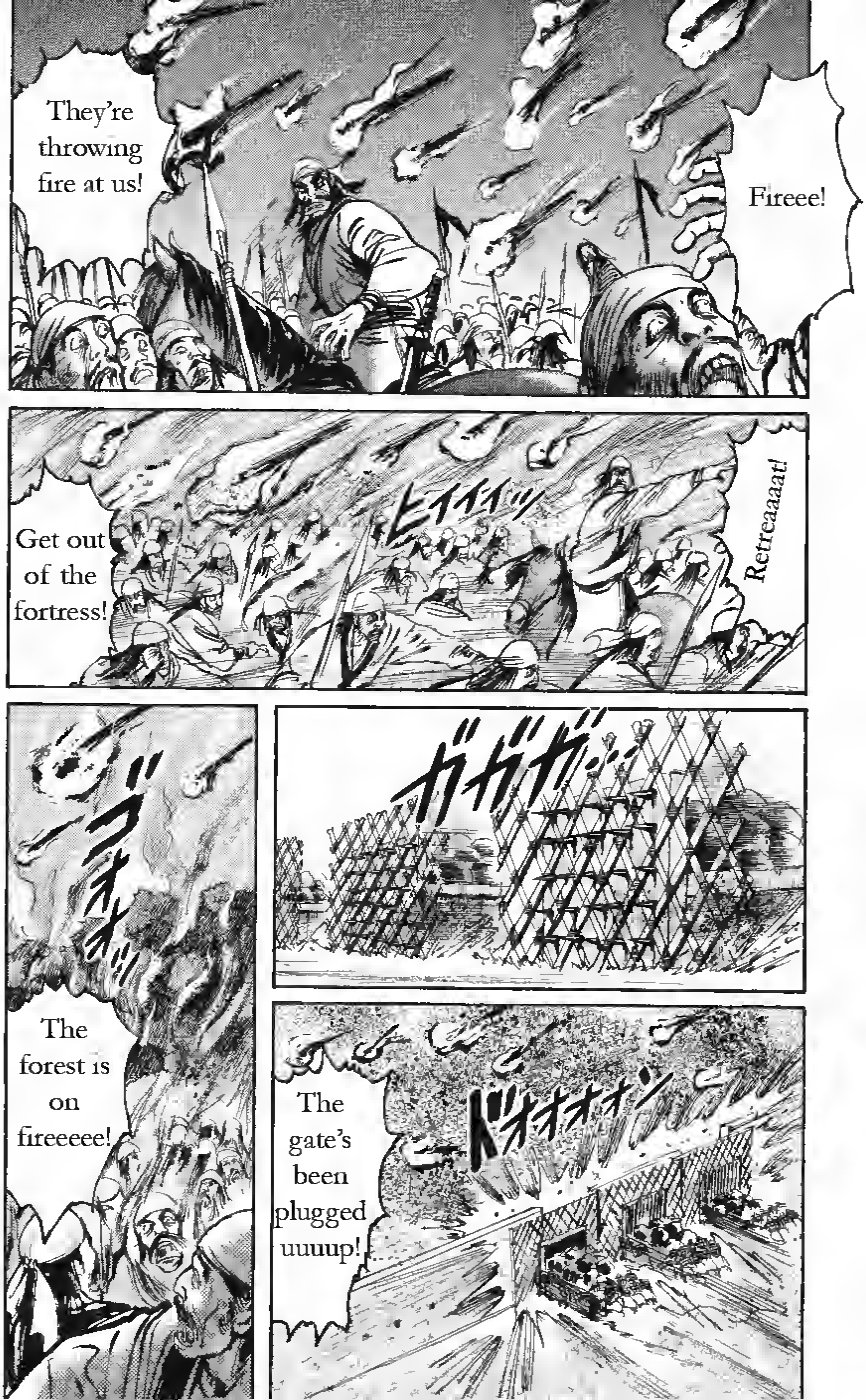
Over-solicitude = "You may not be too concerned with your love towards your people" Another line from Sun Zi

He has a sharp and intense understanding of the art of war.

The most fearsome of all is this practical spirit of his that doesn't care about his bad reputation! A man who is incredibly dangerous, even as an ally!!

Milord!
Milord
Sir!
Let's change course and head towards Nanyang!
There are no more military merits here, in Yingchuan!

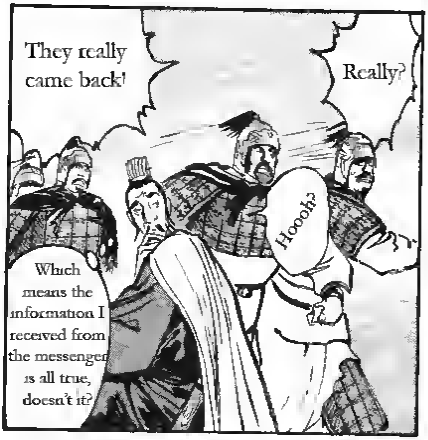
ゴオオオオオ
The provisions
The fortress
How could strong xia such as yourselves lose this way!?
Could a devil be hiding among those cowardly government army soldiers!?
And you Zhang Mancheng!
Bo Cai, my sworn friend!
T-That's the government army!
うぎゃあああああ
Aah!
What the hell is happening!?
What!?

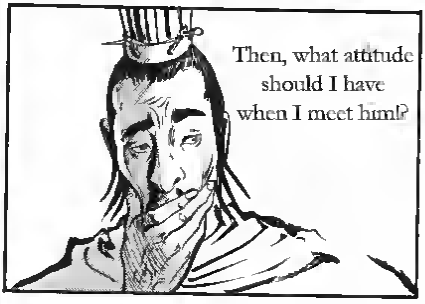

They're throwing fire at us!
Fireee!
Get out of the fortress!
ヒイイイ
Retreaaaat!
ゴオオ
The forest is on fireeeee!
ガガガ
The gate's been plugged uuuup!
ドオオオン

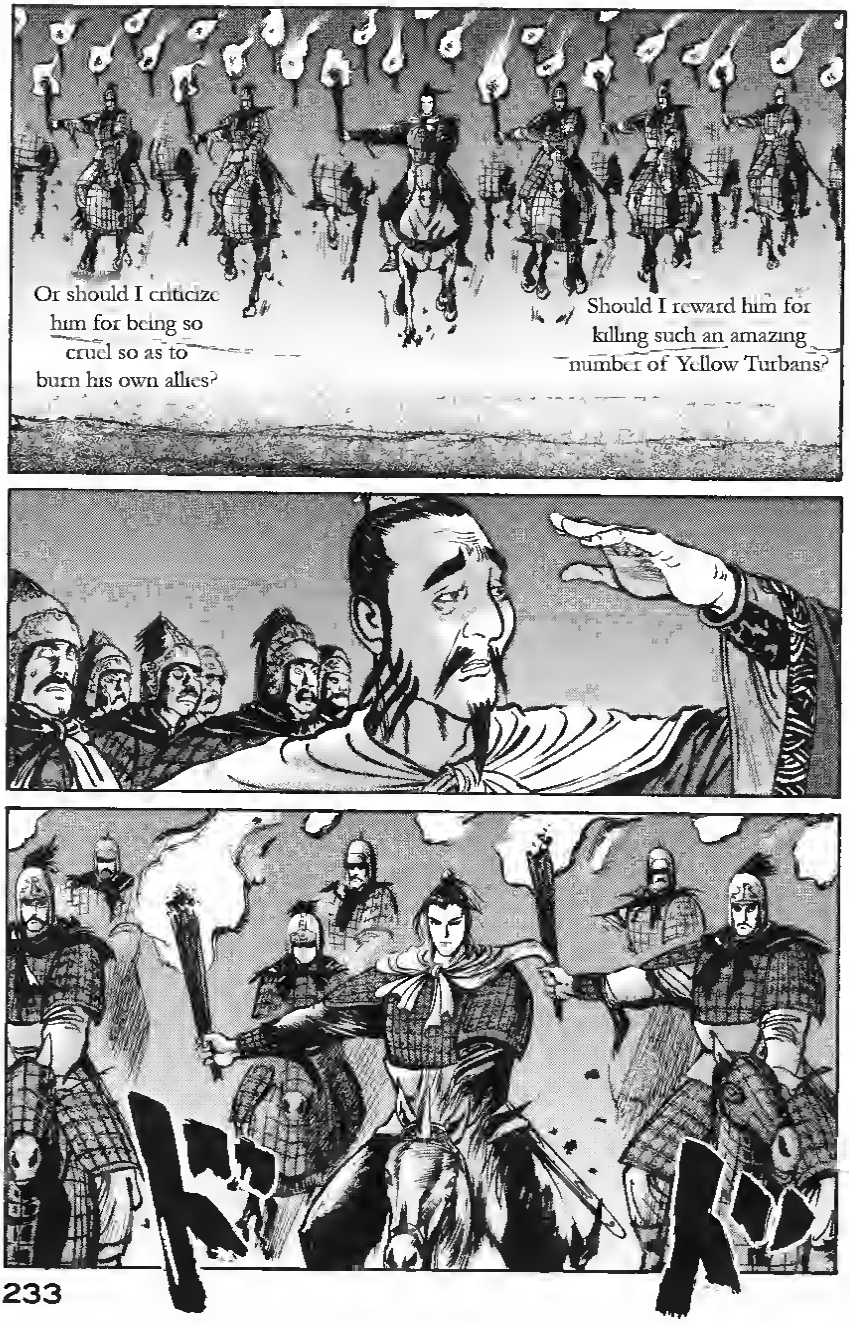
Let's run away! I'm gonna run away, no matter what!
ガガガ
コオオオオオオオー
ケーケーヒー
Heeeeeeelp!
ぎゃあああああ!

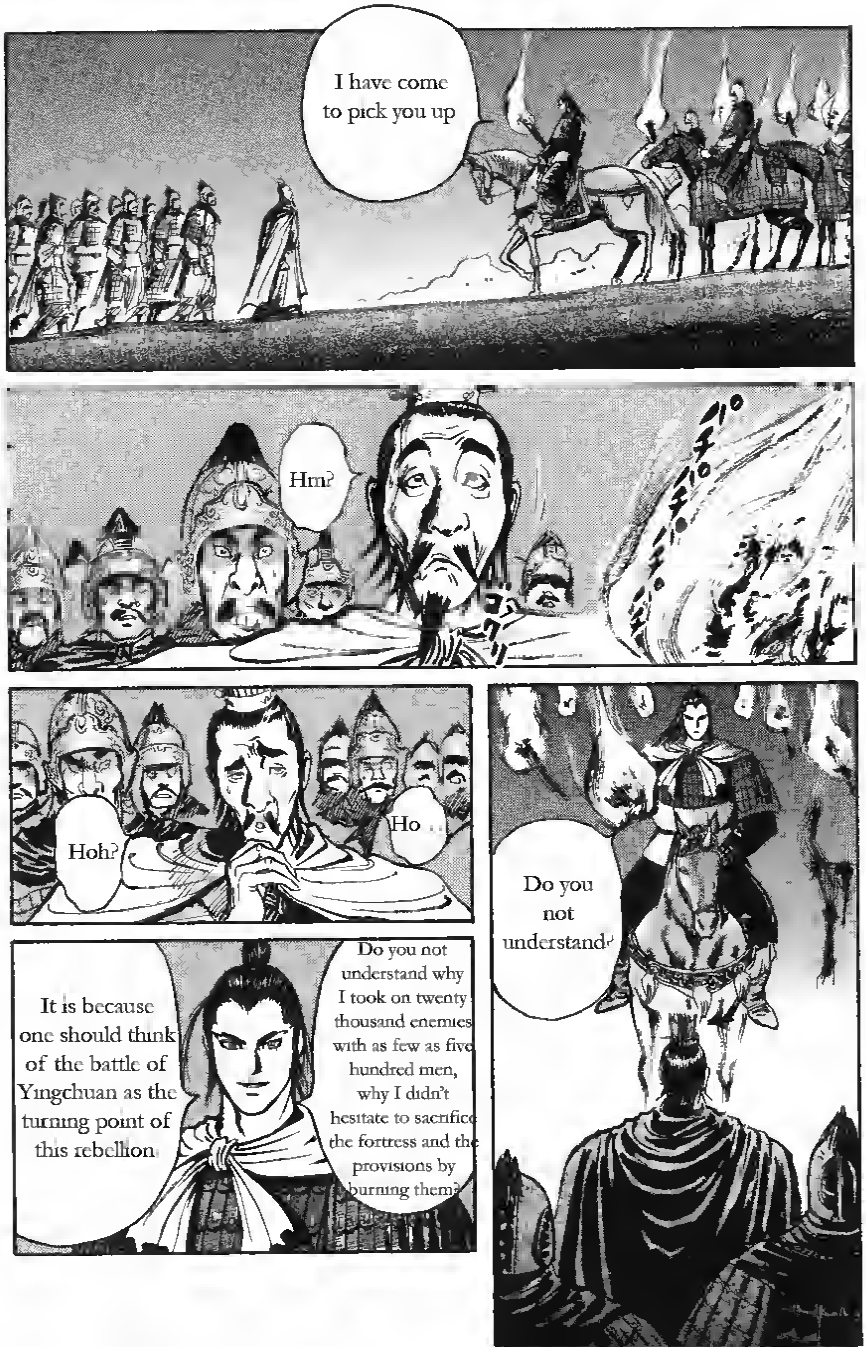
ウオオオ…

They're here!
I can see the five hundred horsemen of the Cao Cao troops who took over the fortress!


They really came back!
Really?
Hoooh?
Which means the information I received from the messenger is all true, doesn't it?


Then, what attitude should I have when I meet him!?


Or should I criticize him for being so cruel so as to burn his own allies?
Should I reward him for killing such an amazing number of Yellow Turbans?


I have come to pick you up
Hm?
Hoh?
Ho
It is because one should think of the battle of Yingchuan as the turning point of this rebellion.
Do you not understand why I took on twenty thousand enemies with as few as five hundred men, why I didn't hesitate to sacrifice the fortress and the provisions by burning them?
Do you not understand?

Now that many have abandoned the Yellow Turbans, we should lure the remaining members, those who are the true elite, and wipe them out.
Mhm
And now, I propose this to you, General Huangfu Song
You should go out in the front lines...
...and lead this battle that will decide everything!

Got it!
I might want great military glory, but I won't go out in the front lines!
I see.
Hm
In that case, I must quickly return to Luoyang and propose it in the military council!
So you're saying that now is the time to defeat Zhang Jue of the Heaven!
I shall be leaving you command of Yingchuan while I am away!
Cao Cao!

...I shall be taking command as of now
Then...

.....

Sir!

All troops are to gather as soon as possible and revise all of their formations!
I, Xun Yu Wenruo, announce this to the entire army!
In other words, if we do not win this battle and wait instead, we shall die of hunger!
After that, the supply units are to leave military provisions for a day or two and throw the rest away, so that they may join the fight as well.
We should keep this in mind and look forward to this battle!
Aah...
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